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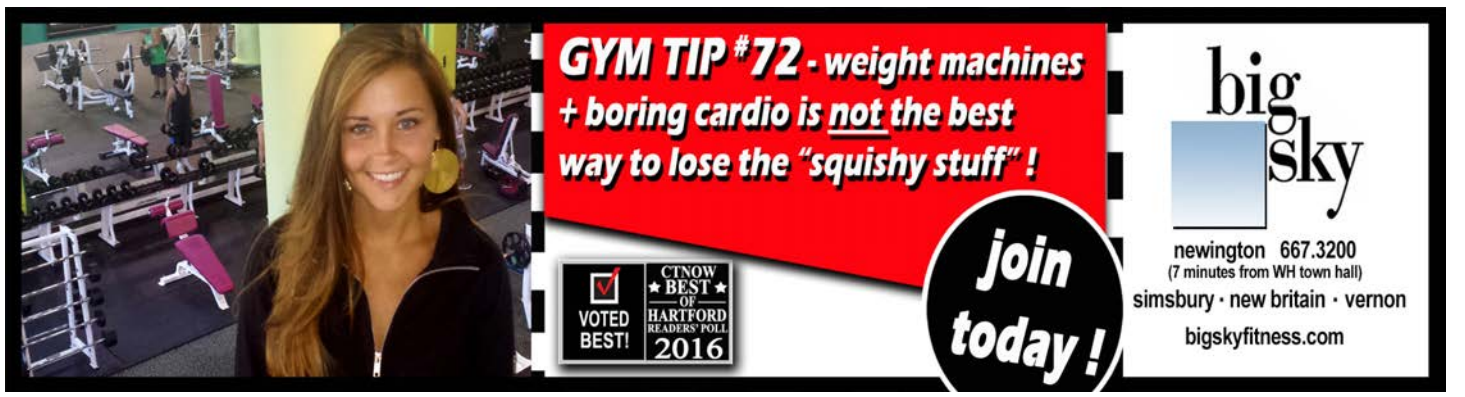
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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"Our students can now take classes at Central tuition free. That was a big decision." - *William Collins*

See story page 6

ON THE COVER

Renée and Tom Malinowski recently returned from an international dance competion in Italy.

Photo by Lisa Brisson
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Looking to grow

Tri-Town YMCA seeks money and a higher profile

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Summer camps are another popular Y program. Courtesy photos

The Tri-Town YMCA has functioned for the towns of Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield for many years, but it has operated under a fairly low profile.

Shawn Fongemie hopes to change that. He is the development officer with the Greater Hartford YMCA, as well as the executive director overseeing both its Tri-Town and West Hartford branches.

Administrative offices for the Tri-Town YMCA are located in West Hartford. There is local program space at 1321 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield.

While this YMCA branch serves all three towns, most of the program sites are in Wethersfield. Children come from Newington and Rocky Hill to participate.

"Our preschool enrichment programs tend to get people from Rocky Hill," Fongemie said.

Newington participation, for the most part, is limited to the summer camps.

The thrust of all Y programs is youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

"Our strongest programs are our after-school enrichment programs and our sports camp programs," Fongemie said.

He is looking for ways to work collaboratively with other like-minded organizations and hopes to talk about that with Judy Keane, president of the Richard M. Keane Foundation, and representatives of the Wethersfield Early Child Collaborative.

Keane likes the idea and would welcome the opportunity to explore the possibilities. The concept of sharing resources for mutual benefit appeals to her.

"Our strongest programs are our after-school enrichment programs and our sports camp programs."

– Shawn Fongemie

"We need to sit down and talk. There are areas we can collaborate on. Why reinvent the wheel?" she said. "We're doing a lot more in the schools now. That's a big change for us."

"It gives us the opportunity to look through a different lens," Fongemie said. "There's manpower in us collaborating [with others]. We're a Y without walls. We don't have community space. I try to utilize all the resources we have in our association."

That makes the need to work together even greater. Many of the current programs are held at local schools.

Every school in Wethersfield is served, but not every school has its own program site. Those without have bus service to take children to the nearest location, either Hanmer, Webb or Emerson-Williams schools.

Summer camp experiences include day trips to the Y's Camp Jewell in Colebrook.

The Tri-Town YMCA currently serves 657 Wethersfield children. Fongemie emphasized that it's much more than baby-sitting. All programming in some way promotes the Y's core values.

"We've been working really hard to become more of a want than a need," he said. "These children need after-school programs."

He further explained that simple baby-sitting until parents get out of work and come pick up their child is a need. Quality programming during that time makes it a want.

Those activities have taken on a different structure over the past four years. There has also been an increased focus on serving healthy food. YMCA after-school programs feature play time, homework time and a snack. All of the teachers have state certification.

"Our staff really focuses on building relationships with the kids ... [and] make it fun for them," Fongemie said. "It's great to have that learning component. There's a whole social-emotional piece to it."

The after-school programs run throughout the academic year and a similar approach is taken to the summer camps. Efforts are made to engage the parents as well as the children. Financial aid is available for families that need it and is granted on a sliding scale.

"The Y does not turn anyone away. We will find a way," he said.

To do that, he needs money. Fongemie is launching a fundraising drive in the three towns to support the Tri-Town branch. Families may also qualify for the state Care for Kids program that can subsidize the cost of after-school programming and camp.

"My goal this year is to raise $15,000" from the three communities, he said.

Fongemie added that Wethersfield children alone will receive an estimated $40,000 in financial aid this calendar year. **NL**

For more information about the Tri-Town YMCA and its programs, or to make a donation, contact Fongemie at 860-522-9622 or shawn.fongemie@ghymca.org. To review the program guide go to the website and click on "Tri-Town."

Hitting the links together

Police and fire departments team up for charity golf tournament

by Mark Jahne
Editor

They work side by side at fires, car crashes and other emergency scenes. Now, the Newington Police Department and Newington Volunteer Fire Department are partnering to support the community through a golf tournament.

The Newington Golf Classic will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4 at Indian Hill Country Club. Players, sponsors and raffle items are all being sought to make the day a success. Police Officer Jamie DeSimone and Fire Capt. Craig Stegmaier of Company 3 are planning the event.

Registration is at 10 a.m., lunch follows at 11, and the action begins at noon with a shotgun start. Dinner will follow 18 holes of golf. The fee is $140 per person; those who do not want to play golf but want to attend the dinner may do so for $40.

DeSimone and Stegmaier are hoping for a maximum field of 128 golfers and hope to make the golf classic an annual event. Checks should be made payable to the Newington Fire Department, Inc., the non-governmental and social arm of the fire service. Online registration is available at eventbrite.com.

Proceeds will benefit the police and fire departments and the community, as well as scholarships in memory of Officers Peter Lavery and Ciara McDermott.

Funds set aside for the fire department will be put toward its 100th anniversary celebration scheduled for next year. The department was created April 4, 1917. Planned festivities include a parade and firefighters' ball.

"We're always looking to collaborate and work together to get involved with the community," DeSimone said.

The departments first combined efforts last year to stage a benefit softball game for a public safety dispatcher who is fighting cancer. The money they raised went to the breast cancer center at Hartford Hospital.

Proceeds from this year and future events will alternate between the departments. Proceeds from the raffle at this year's tourney will benefit the Lavery and McDermott scholarships.

"We are definitely looking for sponsors, donations and volunteers," DeSimone said.

"This should be a good event once we get it off the ground," Stegmaier added.

Both agreed that it is important for their respective departments to interact with the public whenever possible. They noted that this event will benefit the town in general as well as the police and fire service.

Sponsorship opportunities range from tee signs ($100) to platinum level ($3,000). The deadline for sponsorship commitments is Sept. 13. Forms and payment may be sent to: Mike Iskra, Newington Volunteer Fire Department, 1485 Main St., Newington, 06111. **NL**

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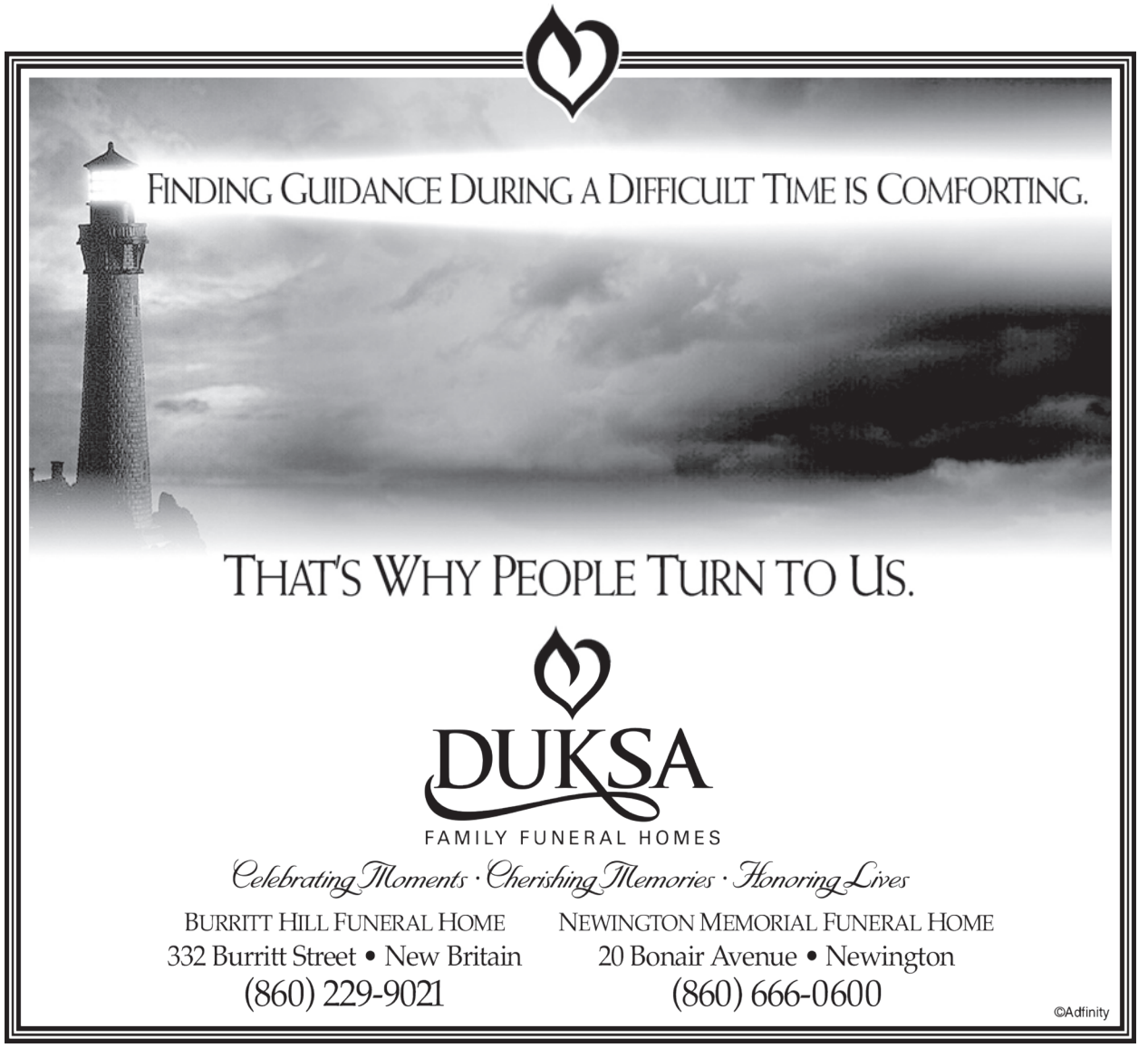
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A new year awaits

Public schools prepped to open Aug. 31

by Mark Jahne
Editor

"Our students can now take classes at Central, tuition-free. That was a big decision."

– Superintendent of Schools William Collins

Numerous changes will become evident when the Newington Public Schools open for the new academic year. Despite some financial challenges, Superintendent of Schools William Collins is pleased that the district is moving forward with many initiatives.

"We're going to roll out the next phase of the one-to-one [technology] program at Newington High School," he said, which means every freshman and sophomore will receive a Chromebook to start the year.

"We will have the whole high school done by mid-year," he said. "We have so many teachers who are Google-certified educators. It's a whole new way of teaching and learning."

The teachers took the special training on their own time, and some have already been presenting it to other school districts across the country.

"I've been so impressed by [the teachers'] energy," he said.

An old school bus that is no longer utilized for the daily transportation of students has been repurposed as a mobile technology center. It will visit such locations as the public library and senior center, where students in grades three through 12 will teach modern technology to senior citizens.

The bus is equipped with a WiFi hot spot, work stations, a conference area, bookshelves and a help desk. It will eventually have solar-powered air conditioning, according to Collins.

"We can go to the seniors; we can take it out to a neighborhood if want to," he said.

He's also planning to showcase the bus at next year's Extravaganza festival.

New at the two middle schools is a "genius bar" technology help desk for internal use. The high school already has a student-run help desk.

Collins said the district will pilot a new learning management system. Every student and parent will have an account.

"The next step is to get all of our information in the Cloud," he said.

After years of trying, the superintendent reported that the district has successfully cut a deal that allows Newington High School students to engage in dual enrollment with their school and Central Connecticut State University. It is a much wider agreement than the

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one that currently has the University of Connecticut offering two courses at NHS.

"Our students can now take classes at Central, tuition-free. That was a big decision," Collins said.

Over the summer, the media center at John Wallace Middle School received a complete facelift, the first major renovation since it was built in 1972, according to Collins. New features are a centralized circulation desk and three Makerspace areas.

"STEM is moving along better than anticipated," Collins said of the new emphasis on a middle school academy approach to science, technology, education and math. The aerospace academy will be expanded to include grade eight.

The $2.5 million renovation of Newington High School to bring the building up to code and modernize its offerings is proceeding as planned. Gone are the wood shop, auto mechanic shop and old culinary program kitchen, replaced by a health care education area, aerospace lab, genomics lab, new culinary space and a 120-seat meeting center.

That entire portion of the building will feature a more centralized design.

Collins expects overall K-12 enrollment to remain steady with approximately 4,200 students. He also hopes to get started on renovating Anna Reynolds School to meet handicapped accessibility requirements.

"The school needs a complete renovation," he said.

He's working in partnership with the town Parks and Recreation Department to provide after-school programming, something many parents want for their children. There are two fewer administrators in the central office this academic year, the result of budget trimming.

Collins looks forward to launching a new live program yet to be named on Newington Community Television about the school district. It will be hosted by Steve Parker, host of "Talk to the Mayor," and modeled after that long-running program, including the opportunity for viewers to call in and pose questions. **NL**

Courtesy photo

Superintendent of Schools William Collins

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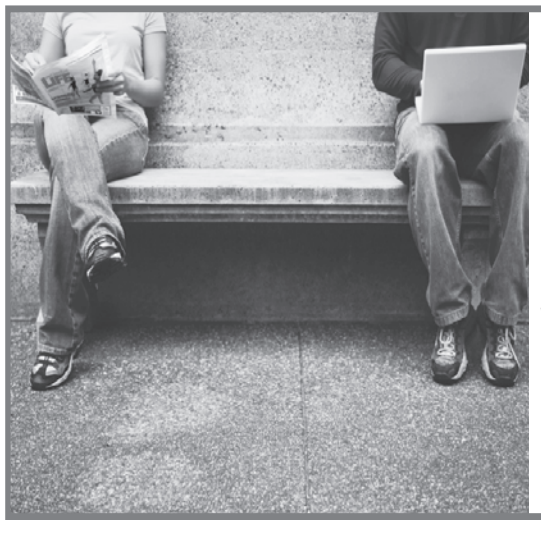

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Making a 'Promise'

Interfaith organizations unite to end homelessness

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

There are more homeless people in and around Connecticut than one might believe. People of faith in Newington and the surrounding area are trying to help those folks out.

According to a 2015 report by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, more than 4,000 people in this state were homeless as of February 2015. More than 800 of them were children.

Churches, synagogues and mosques in the area are coming together to do something about it.

Kara Russell is the president of the Connecticut affiliate of Family Promise, a nonprofit, nationwide interfaith hospitality network. It brings together localized religious organizations to provide temporary housing and resources for homeless families with children.

"It's a collection of host and support congregations in and around the Greater New Britain area that agree to house homeless children and their families for one week at a time for four weeks a year and provide them dinner, continental breakfasts and resources for families to get back on their feet," Russell said.

"It provides a sense of normalcy and continuity."

The program works through affiliates across the country. Each affiliate is comprised of at least 13 houses of worship that agree to be host congregations for one week at a time on four weeks throughout the year. Other faith-based groups can be part of the affiliate as support congregations.

Host congregations agree to house up to 14 people for a week, providing each family within that group with its own sleeping space as well as continental breakfast, a packed lunch for schoolchildren and a community dinner with Family Promise volunteers.

What separates this program from other homeless shelters is that Family Promise keeps families together.

"The reason it's such a great alternative to traditional shelters is that it keeps the families intact," Russell said.

"In virtually every shelter men and women are separated and teenage boys go with their fathers and children go with their mothers. You can imagine how difficult it is for a family to find their way out of homelessness and it's virtually impossible when the parents are separated."

Each morning that a family stays in a Family Promise host congregation, a bus takes them to a day center in New Britain that is staffed with a full-time social worker who provides counseling to help them find housing, employment, child care, financial counseling and other resources to break the cycle of homelessness.

"The program has a phenomenal success rate," Russell said. "The average length of stay is 60 days, which is phenomenal. It's really a permanent solution for most of these families."

While parents spend the day learning how to get back on their feet, children are bused from the day center to their respective schools so that they don't have to miss any of their education as their family goes through a difficult time.

"There are probably hundreds of homeless kids in the area school systems, whether they're sleeping in hotels or on a relative's couch or worse," Skip Collins, lead recruiter for Family Promise of Central Connecticut, said.

"Kids in primary school, at that age, if they have to change schools three, four, five times, it hurts their

outcome. This helps to keep the families intact during this transition."

Each stay at a new facility only lasts for one week, which Russell said was a surprising fact to her at first.

"The families continue to move, which sounded to me that it was counterintuitive, but that's an intentional design," she said. "We are not providing homes for these families, we are educating them out of homelessness. That keeps them motivated that they are moved every week."

> **"You meet people on a very human level and you remember that we're all brothers and sisters."**
>
> **– Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer**

The Family Promise affiliate in Central Connecticut is the first in the state, and although they have not yet begun to house families, Russell said the affiliate is well on its way. Nine of the required 13 host congregations have been secured, and she and Collins are hard at work looking to find more.

"It takes about three years from when you first call and say you want to get involved to hosting your first family," Russell said. "It's been about two years that we've been working on it now and we're hoping to host our first family before Christmas."

For both Russell and Collins, it is Family Promise's focus on the human element of homelessness, especially its effect on children, that is so important.

"I think there's a reputation Connecticut has for being a wealthy state and I think that's one of the reasons why we're one of the few states in the country that doesn't have a Family Promise," Russell said. "There is tremendous economic disparity in Connecticut."

They stressed that the people Family Promise serves are not drug addicted, lazy or any other stereotype.

"There are a lot of reasons people can fall into this, whether it's through illness or job loss or just the working poor," Collins said. "This program really embraces people that have fallen between the cracks and are looking to get a leg up."

"I started thinking about how my husband and I are probably a couple paychecks away from being in a situation like that one and I needed to be more consciously grateful of the life that I have," Russell added.

For Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer of Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Main Street, the human element and ability to sit with people for dinner is an extremely important part of Family Promise's mission.

"It's something so simple, but you really sit down with these people and have a meal," she said. "You meet people on a very human level and you remember that we're all brothers and sisters."

The Newington church is one of the support congregations for the new affiliate, meaning it is unable to offer housing for families, but instead provides volunteers to make meals, sit with families and help in any way possible.

"We don't have a lot of resources, but we are able to offer support," Reuning-Scherer said.

Looking forward, the affiliates of Family Promise of Central Connecticut hope to recruit the necessary four more host congregations in order to begin hosting families. As a nonprofit organization, it operates on donations and without any federal or state government assistance.

The group will be hosting a walk-a-thon in September at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain to help fund the costs of the program. Russell urges people to think about making a donation to the nonprofit.

"There are homeless children who need immediate assistance in Connecticut," she said. "I want people to keep the children in mind." **NL**

For more information, or to make a donation to Family Promise of Central Connecticut, visit familypromiseofcentralct.org.

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Dancing stars

Couple enjoys their first international competition in Italy

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Renée Malinowski wanted to take dance lessons as a child, but her mother wouldn't let her.

"I always wanted to take ballet, but my mom said I was too clumsy," she recalled.

She became the captain of the cheerleaders at Newington High School and the University of Connecticut, coached cheerleading for several years at the University of Hartford and Central Connecticut State University, and served as director of the New England Cheerleading Camp.

Her husband, Tom, was also athletic, with stints as a pitcher on the baseball teams at New Britain High School and CCSU. He also coached at both of those schools and in the Greater Hartford Twilight League and was the assistant coach for the USA Baseball teams (for high school age).

Tom and Renée Malinowski model their USA Dance World Team jackets.

Photos by Athena Casarotto

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He is currently president of the Twilight League.

Twelve years ago, the couple took a cruise, during which they took a rumba lesson. When they came home, they decided to take lessons at the US Dance Club in Rocky Hill.

"We could not turn down the offer to represent our country in such a prestigious event."

– Renée Malinowski

"We would learn one step each week and then practice it at a dance party," Tom said.

"Then we met Jack and Jean Burns, a couple who used to dance for Scotland, and they offered to show us the International style of dance. Six years ago we decided to try competing on the amateur level."

They have qualified each year to compete for a national title in the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships.

"Competitive ballroom dancing is called dance sport. Dance sport is regulated by national and international organizations. The World DanceSport Federation is the international governing body of amateur dance sport and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee," Renée said.

"USA Dance is the national governing body for amateur dance sport in the United States. Dancers are required to adhere to strict set of rules of conduct including anti-doping policies," she added.

Renée is the vice president of Evanwood, Inc., a business she owns with her husband that produces hand-crafted custom furniture and cabinetry in addition to shipping and storage containers.

"Events are organized by style of dance, level of proficiency and age of competitor. We compete in the International style which includes slow waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, fox trot and quickstep," Tom said.

"The level we compete in is championship level, which is the highest level of proficiency. We are allowed to compete within our own age group and one age group below, so we compete in Senior II (40-55 years old) and Senior III (50-65 years old)."

He is a technology education teacher at New Britain High School. Despite their newness to the sport, the couple has done well.

"There are national qualifying events held about once a month around the U.S. In order to be eligible to compete at the U.S. National Championships, which are held at the end of March, we must qualify in the top 65 percent at a qualifier in each of our events," Tom said.

"We often find ourselves near the middle of the group of competitors. Each year, new couples enter the age category, which makes the process very challenging. This year we placed fifth at the National Championship, our highest finish."

They also recently completed their first international competition.

The pair takes a break between rounds outside the pavilion.

They were one of two amateur couples who were invited by USA Dance, the national governing body for competitive amateur ballroom dancing, to represent the United States in the 2016 World DanceSport Federation World Championships held in July in Rimini, Italy.

"USA Dance sends the top two couples of each event and age category to the WDSF World Championships. This year the sec-

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The Malinowskis show off their skill at the tango.

ond, third and fourth place couples in Senior III Championship Standard could not attend, so we were given the opportunity to go to the competition in Rimini, Italy. It was an unexpected pleasure," Renée said.

"Based on our previous results, we would not have considered entering a world championship, but we could not turn down the offer to represent our country in such a prestigious event. We decided to do our best," she added.

"The opportunity was even more special for us because I have family in Italy which we were able to visit with while we were there. And we were very happy to have our niece come from England to see the competition."

The trip also coincided with their 35th wedding anniversary. The international competition was strong.

"The WDSF Senior III World Championships were sponsored this year by the Italian National Dance Championships. They hold their competition at the huge expo center, Rimini Fiera. The competition runs for eight days on eight ballrooms each day with a total of about 37,000 participants," she said.

"Our event was held on the last day of the Italian National Championships, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at midnight. There were about 360 couples, 50 years old and up, and 11 judges. We performed in groups of 14 couples doing one dance at a time," she added.

"After seeing all five dances, the judges eliminated 100 couples in each of the first two rounds. Then they began to eliminate half the field in each round until there were six couples in the final."

The Malinowskis placed 284.

"It is not so easy to say that you came in 284th in anything," Renée said.

"But after seeing the level of excellence among the competitors at this competition, we could not be disappointed in ourselves. We cannot expect to be anyone but whom we are today. However, dancing with so many superb dancers will certainly inspire us to become better for the next time."

The top couple from the United States placed 133. The Malinowskis almost didn't make it to the competition at all.

"I became ill in June and was hospitalized with a kidney ailment just one week before we left for Italy. We came very close to backing out. With my doctor's permission, we decided to take the trip and make the most of it," Renée said.

"When we arrived in Italy, our luggage was lost: my dress, our shoes, Tom's tail suit, even our beautiful USA World Team jackets were gone. Tom and I decided that nothing was going to dampen our spirits. We had arrived a week early to spend time with family and had to forego some of that time to buy replacement items.

"We made arrangements to borrow some things from our team members. Then, several days later, our luggage arrived just in time for the competition," she said.

"Being at the World Championship with hundreds of other fabulous dancers from 24 countries was a very emotional experience for me. Partially because I had been recently ill, but mostly because it was impossible to forget that I was there as one of very few representing the United States.

"We wore U.S. flag pins and waved U.S. flag bandanas. The pride we felt for our country that day was intense. I will be forever grateful to USA Dance for this unforgettable honor."

They trained hard for the competition.

"We trained for the event with a focused intensity we have not felt before. Probably because we felt a responsibility not just to ourselves and our coach, but to USA Dance, to our peers and even to our family for our performance," Tom said.

They practice for two hours about three to five times a week in the gymnasium at New Britain High School. They also work out with weights, as well as on the elliptical and on stationary bikes. Once or twice a month, they take lessons from Bill Davies of Bill Davies Ballroom Dancing Inc., who comes in from

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Davies started his professional dancing career in 1958 with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios in Hartford, leaving the state in 1963 for New York to begin his independent teaching and competitive career in what is now dance sport.

"[They're] up and coming. They keep getting closer to winning. Their intelligent and willing to try different ideas. They are really nice people who work very well together. It is a pleasure for me to work with them," Davies said.

Pursuing the sport is not cheap.

"This is a very expensive sport. We can only dream that someone would sponsor us, even partially. For this championship, we were given a small stipend from USA Dance. But normally we bear the entire expense ourselves," Renée said.

"There are times when we are forced to cut back on lessons, new costumes and/or travel. But we have decided to make dance a priority in our lives. We juggle jobs and family, illness and injury, with practice, lessons and travel.

"Are we crazy? Yes. We're crazy for dance. And when an opportunity to represent our country arises unexpectedly, like it did for us, after the initial shock, we go for it," she said.

While they perform a number of dances, they have personal favorites.

"We have always loved the elegant steps of the waltz and the fast-paced quickstep, probably because we feel they are our best dances. But most of all, we love the music. It is so beautiful and inspiring. It carries us away," Tom said.

The couple has three children, two sons in Connecticut and a daughter in New Hampshire.

"None of them dance. We don't know what happened there," Renée joked.

They appreciate how far they've come in such a short time.

"When we began to learn one dance step every week at social dances in Rocky Hill, we never dreamed that some day we would be members of the USA World Team dancing on a world stage with the best dancers in the world," Tom said.

"We gave it our best effort and were incredibly proud to represent the USA. In Rimini, we were fortunate to be among the world's finest dancers, most whom were truly elite. The level of talent was inspiring to witness."

"We never intended to become competitive dancers, it happened naturally as a result of our interest in dance. It is such a beautiful sport, but very demanding and extremely challenging. We love that we are still competitive athletes in our 60s," Renée added. **NL**

Photo by DSPhoto and Helmut Roland

The United States of America is announced during the Parade of Nations at the opening ceremonies. Twenty-four countries were represented at the event.

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A new location

Chamber of commerce selects downtown venue for its largest fundraiser

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

The Newington Chamber of Commerce's is making a major change for its largest annual fund-raising event on Sept. 10. For the first time, its annual Silent Auction, Wine Tasting and Chocolate Challenge will be held at the G. Fox building in downtown Hartford.

"When we first started, we had it at the Indian Hill Country Club, but we've been continuing to outgrow our venue," chamber Executive Vice President Kathy Braga said.

She is also chairwoman of the event committee.

While the chamber worked each year to hold the event at member businesses or nearby banquet halls, Braga and other members of the committee came to the decision that the fundraiser had grown too large to fit in any establishment in town.

"We've had up to 350 people and we're expecting that much again this year," she said. "There's nothing in Newington that can fit that many people."

The decision on the new location came about when Braga, of B&M Tree Services, was attending a different event at the historic former G. Fox & Co. department store and decided that she loved the location.

"I thought this place is gorgeous, but we could never afford it, and the events person there overheard me," she said. "We talked and realized that it was actually something in our budget."

The chamber will have use of the building's ballroom, atrium and mezzanine areas. Now in its thirteenth year, the Silent Auction, Wine Tasting and Chocolate Challenge event is the largest fundraiser for its high school scholarship program.

"It started as an art auction," Executive Director Gail Whitney said.

Since its inception, the event has grown to include wine tasting from local vineyards and a chocolate challenge in which local businesses and residents can participate.

"We really get incredible items from local and afar," Braga said. "It's a great event to socialize."

In addition to helping the scholarship program, attendance is beneficial for local businesses and chamber members.

"It's really about supporting your community and that's what this helps to do," Deanna Reney of Karma's Closet Consignment Boutique said. "There will be a DJ and dancing and it will be a fun time."

Braga and Whitney both said the event is extremely popular and tickets sell out quickly. They suggested those interested in attending contact the chamber office as soon as possible. Admission is $40 and free parking will be available in the nearby Morgan Street garage.

"We hope to see a lot of people make it out to this new venue," Braga said. NL

For tickets to the Annual Silent Auction, Wine Tasting and Chocolate Challenge call the chamber office at 860-666-2089.

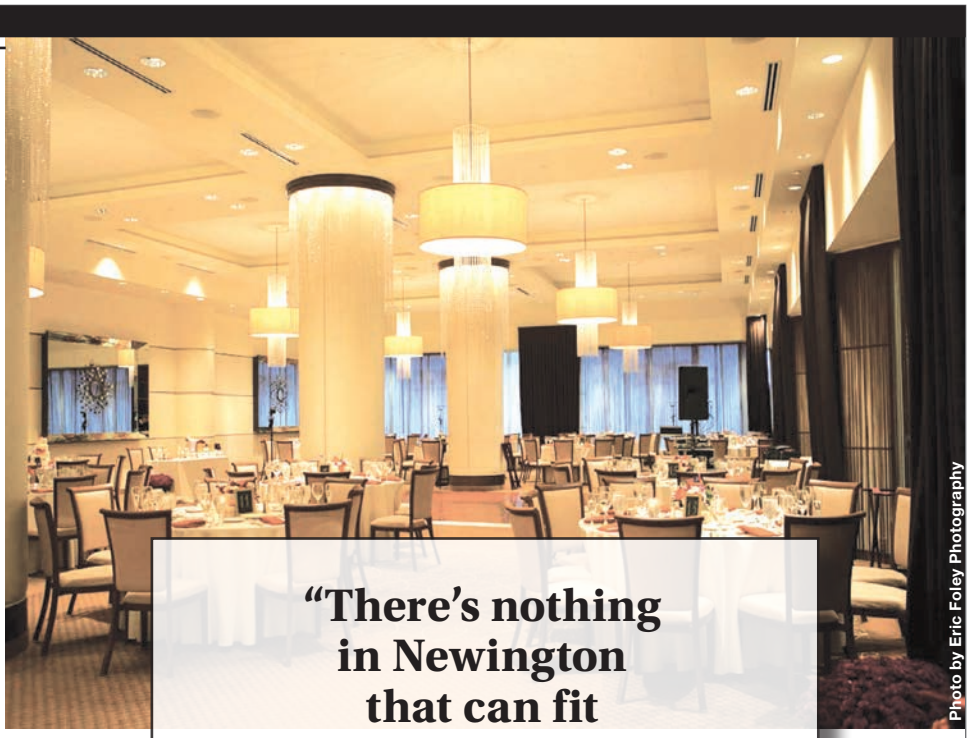

Photo by Eric Foley Photography

"There's nothing in Newington that can fit that many people."
– Kathy Braga

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Business notes

Paul Glotzer and Leslie Zoll were selected to serve on the advisory council of the **Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants**. Glotzer is an instructor-in-residence for the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Zoll is a principal with BlumShapiro in West Hartford.

Reno Properties Group, LLC, has brokered two new leases and a lease expansion in the Best Market Plaza on Lowrey Place. **Garrett's Barber Shop** leased 1,080 square feet and **Farmers Insurances** leased 1,125 square feet. **Damato Chiropractic Center** leased an additional 1,420 square feet.

Addolorata Ciccone joined **Jefferson House** as its new geriatric clinical pharmacist.

The Newington office of **Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties** held a raffle for the Sunshine Kids Foundation.

All of the proceeds will benefit the charitable organization dedicated to helping children with cancer. The office exceeded its sales goal of 265 tickets.

American Eagle Financial Credit Union donated $500 to the safe graduation party for the Class of 2016 at Newington High School. NHS finished third in a social media vote involving 17 local high schools.

After 20 years in business as **Signs Now**, the company is changing its name to **Image360.** Owner Randy Hamilton said the new name comes with a fresh approach to professional graphic solutions and enhanced customer service. Located at 2434 Berlin Turnpike, Suite 18, Image360 is a member of Alliance Franchise Brands network. **NL**

Paul Glotzer

Leslie Zoll

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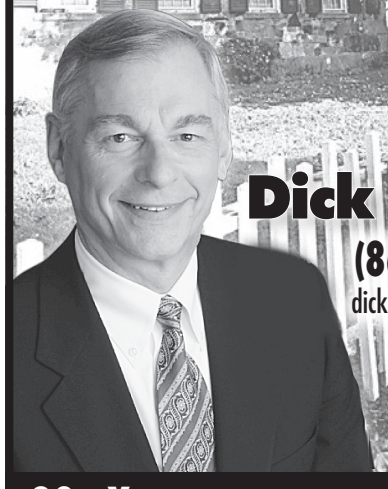

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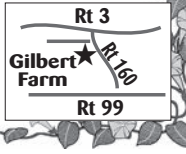

1966 - 2016
Celebrating 50 Years
NSAF
Investing in our Community's Future

A golden jubilee

Newington Student Assistance Fund plans a grand celebration

by Mark Jahne
Editor

It has been 50 years since the Newington Student Assistance Fund awarded its first loan. Its leaders believe that is cause for celebration.

The fact that the amount of money loaned over that half century has topped $1 million is another reason to party. NSAF will hold a Wine and Craft Beer Tasting and Silent Auction from 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23 in the town hall lobby.

The nonprofit organization is dedicated to assisting residents in obtaining post-secondary education by providing interest-free loans. It began in 1966 through the efforts of the Newington Jaycees, school PTAs and several civic representatives.

The celebration will feature wines and craft beer, a selection of cheeses, appetizers and desserts, along with non-alcoholic beverages. The Larry Gareau Trio will provide musical entertainment. Door prizes and silent auction items are being donated by local businesses.

The primary goal was to reach the $1 million mark, Vice President Jeri Lynn Turkowicz said. NSAF gave out 49 loans this year. The biggest year in terms of volume was 2012, when 61 loans were approved.

"Every year, we've been able to meet all the loans that were requested," she said.

Each loan is $1,000. Students may apply over multiple years and, if they go on to graduate school, may borrow as much as $7,000 over time.

President Terry Sullivan said the organization sustains itself through the combination of loan repayments and donations from businesses, organizations and individuals. NSAF is sometimes the beneficiary of memorial contributions made in the name of someone who has died.

"We get donations from a number of civic organizations," Turkowicz added.

"After the recession in 2009, we had a shortfall. Our contributions dropped considerably," Sullivan said.

Each year since then has seen an increase in support, but it has not yet returned to the pre-2009 level.

"Things have really picked up the past two years. The loan payments, plus the donations, keep us going," Treasurer Maura Stamm said. "The repayment amounts are pretty manageable."

She also noted that the fund awards a pair of college scholarships every year.

The average person pays less than $100 a month, which enables people to pay NSAF back even if they fall on tough economic times.

Stamm added that the relationship the fund has with the local branch of TD Bank is extremely helpful. The bank serves as the NSAF mailing address and is a financial sponsor of the upcoming party. Other advertising and sponsorship opportunities are available.

"We are very grateful for everything they have done," she said.

Several years ago, the fund took over the management of a scholarship fund that previously belonged to Indian Hill Country Club.

NSAF officers are: Terry Sullivan, president; Jeri Lynn Turkowicz, vice president; Caroline Rothberg, secretary; Maura Stamm, treasurer; Christine Apruzese, loan officer and Donald Logie Jr., past president. Rothberg also serves as the representative for Alpha Kappa Delta, an international honorary organization of active and retired female educators.

Directors are Phyllis DiCara, Anna Eddy, Pamela Golchin, Dan Henry, Alisa Houldcroft, Pamela House, John Kelly, Stanley Mach, Carol Miller-Pekrul, Janet Nahorney, Robert Newbold, Robert Randich and Robert Stubbs.

Eddy is retiring from the board after more than 30 years of service. Several other members also have numerous years of experience. Those interested in learning more about the Newington Student Assistance Fund are invited to visit its table at the Sept. 17 Newington Waterfall Festival on Market Square or visit nsafinfo.org.

Special guests at the Sept. 23 party will include past and present members of the board of directors, local dignitaries, and current and former loan recipients. Tickets are now on sale, priced at $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Contact Terry Sullivan at 860-204-2046. **NL**

"Every year, we've been able to meet all the loans that were requested."
– Jeri Lynn Turkowicz

Photos by Allie Rivera

Michael Johnson, center, runs the new location of Focus Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine on Fenn Road. He is shown with physical therapist Molly Spargo, left, and receptionist Juliana Farrington.

Focus Physical Therapy opens its doors and starts the healing

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

A new way for people to recover, heal and build strength after an injury has opened in Newington.

Open for several months now, this is the second branch of Focus Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, with the other in Berlin. That facility, which was founded in 2008, is also owned by Berlin residents Marcus Bacon and Steve DeFrancesco, both of whom have been working in physical therapy for nearly 20 years.

They also own the Newington location on Fenn Road that is run by Michael Johnson, a town resident with an undergraduate degree in health science and a doctorate in physical therapy.

"The owners always felt that Newington was a great town to work in," Johnson said. "This location is so close to many places, it's near a lot of our clients and it's on a great street."

He previously worked in the Berlin location. Johnson has been employed in the field for four years

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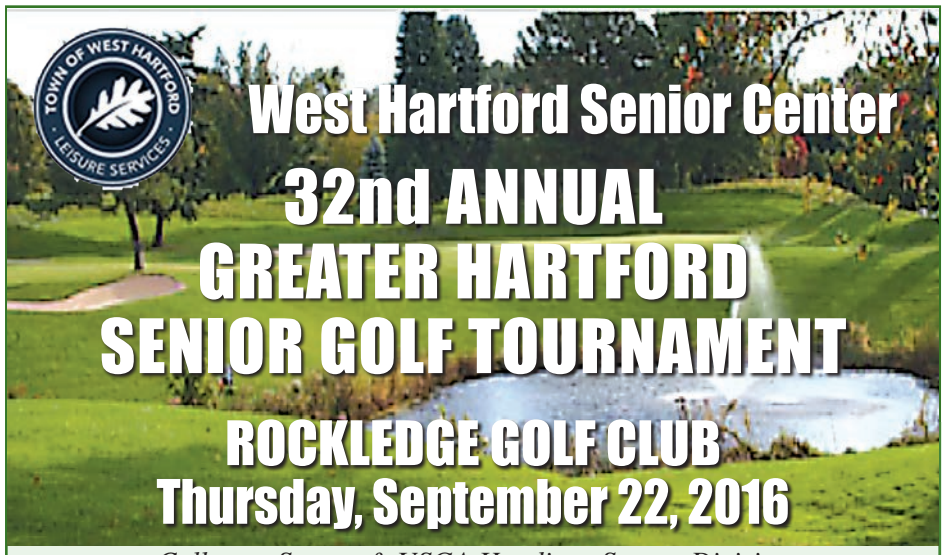

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and said the way he joined the team at Focus was unusual.

"They were actually my physical therapists when I was younger," the former athlete said. "When they offered me a job, I couldn't pass it up."

Johnson said that having this perspective of both patient and therapist provides him with a unique insight into a patient's needs. Although he specializes in sports medicine and concussion rehabilitation, Focus Physical Therapy offers a wide variety of services for muscular and skeletal issues.

"You actually get to talk to the therapists. I've always felt that's important."
– Michael Johnson

The new location boasts a spacious gym with a variety of equipment including a universal gym, stationary bikes, treadmills and arm bikes. Additionally, the new location offers treatments such as electrical stimulation and dry needling, a system that's similar to acupuncture but utilizes Western knowledge of the musculoskeletal system.

A perk of the location is the existence of a small back yard which Johnson uses during his work with clients. Not only does he try to have patients do their therapy outside when possible, he has installed a hitting net that recovering athletes can use as they try to get back into their sport.

"We really designed this place to make sure that when we were opening we had everything," Johnson said.

While having that extra sports equipment is one piece that he said makes Focus unique, it is their commitment to providing one-on-one specialized therapy to their clients that is the major emphasis. Patients are scheduled one per each half hour and the facility is open from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We try to keep it at a lower volume so you can get that one-on-one time," he said. "You actually get to talk to the therapists. I've always felt that's important."

Molly Spargo, a new physical therapist at the Newington location, called the Focus commitment to specialized care part of what made her want to join the team.

"We're very patient focused," she said. "It's not as busy, so it allows you to spend that time with your patient and really find out what's going to make them better."

"It's more personal versus being another number when you walk in the door," added receptionist Juliana Farrington.

According to Johnson, it is the combination of one-on-one attention and a wide range of equipment that will give patients the best results from their physical therapy.

"If you have pain running, I want to watch you run. If you feel pain swinging a golf club, I want to see you swing a golf club," he said.

"You really get to know their injury and come up with a game plan to get them better and get them back to what they want to do."

With the new location now fully operational, Johnson hopes people will look into the services that are now being offered right here in town.

"It's very big and open and we strive to be welcoming," he said. **NL**

Focus Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine is located at 190 Fenn Road. It can be reached at 860-665-1177 or online at focus-physicaltherapy.com.

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Photo by Mark Jahne

Boy Scout Troop 355 can boast of three new Eagle Scouts. They are, from left, James Mouthaan, Derin Yetil and Jordan Mendelsohn.

A trio of Eagles

Three members of Troop 355 achieve top Boy Scout rank

by Mark Jahne
Editor

James Mouthaan, Derin Yetil and Jordan Mendelsohn live in the same neighborhood and have been friends most of their lives. Now, they have something else in common – they are all Eagle Scouts with Boy Scout Troop 355.

Mouthaan, 18, is a graduate of the University High School of Science and Engineering, an inter-district magnet school located on the campus of the University of Hartford. He will attend Clarkson University in the fall.

Mendelsohn, 17, is a 2016

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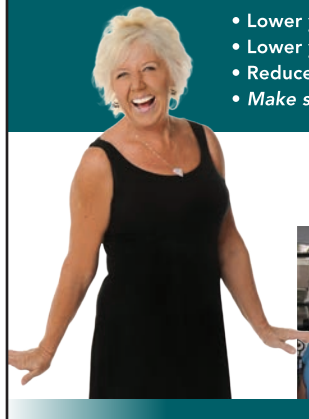

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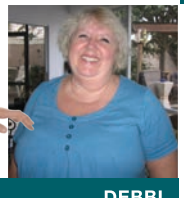

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Newington High School graduate who will further his education at Southern New Hampshire University. Yetil will be a senior at the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering in Windsor, another inter-district magnet school.

Mouthaan already has his Eagle rank; the other two Scouts have also fulfilled all of the requirements and are scheduled to receive their promotions soon.

Their troop meets Friday evenings at the Church of Christ, Congregational. Members thank the church for its space by performing repair projects and other manual labor.

"Every winter, we do a Christmas tree sale and the proceeds go to the church," Mouthaan said.

A minimum of 21 merit badges is required to qualify for Eagle status. The candidate must also complete an Eagle project, which requires him not to do the work himself, but to exhibit leadership skills by forming a team and guiding its efforts.

"We work so much on merit badges and advancement. It snuck up on me quicker than I thought," Mouthaan said.

For his Eagle project, he put in a 20-foot flagpole at Victory Gardens with the help of eight other Scouts.

Victory Gardens is a 74-unit supportive and affordable housing development situated on the grounds of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System's Newington campus off Willard Avenue. It was built in large part to resolve the problem of homelessness among military veterans.

Mouthaan noticed the lack of a flagpole. He spoke with the residents and they liked his suggestion.

"My original plan was to put a porch flag on every condo unit," he said.

He quickly realized that this would be both expensive and time consuming, so a centrally located flagpole was installed instead. Mouthaan was pleased that many of the veterans who live at Victory Gardens attended the flag-raising ceremony.

Yetil built a shed at the senior center, which filled a need and protects the seniors' gardening tools and equipment from theft.

Mendelsohn's project was also at the senior center.

"We built a compost bin," he said.

The previous compost bin was in disrepair. His team also painted benches and fixed a broken fence.

"I looked around and noticed that the benches were in bad condition," he said.

All three teenagers find camping to be the most enjoyable aspect of Scouting. They take monthly camping trips, even in the winter months. Favorite locations include People's State Forest, Rhode Island and the Klondike winter challenge in Connecticut.

"There was always a 5-mile hike [as part of each trip]," Yetil said. "We go on four- or five-day backpacking trips."

"On each trip, we hike about 80 miles total," Mendelsohn added.

"Every year, in the summer, we go on High Adventure," Mouthaan said.

One of their annual camping trips features what they described as an involved cookout. The Scouts said they always eat well. **NL**

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Events spotlight

Saengerbund Bierfest

Aug. 26-28

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860-953-8967 or
hartfordsaengerbund.org

This German-American singing society and social club presents its biennial bierfest featuring live music by Almdudler Unplugged from Germany and costumed Schuhplattler Dancers performing ethnic dances. Admission is $10, free for children 17 and younger. Festival hours are 4-11 p.m. on Friday, 2-11 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Wine Tasting/Art Auction

Sept. 9, 6 to 9 p.m.

Autism Families CONNECTicut
600 North Mountain Road
$35 or $60 for two
860-474-3444 ext. 101 or
autismfamiliesct.org

Autism Families CONNECTicut hosts its first fundraiser at its new facility with wine and beer tastings, live jazz music, and celebrity guest Wayne Carini, TV host of the "Chasing Classic Cars" series on Discovery's Velocity channel. He will bring the famous car from the "Rainman" movie. Also featured will be art produced locally by children on the autism spectrum, as well as other professional artists, all for sale.

Tag Sale

Sept. 10, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Church of the Holy Spirit
183 Church St.
860-667-0690
or 860-665-7574

The Ladies Guild will hold its annual tag sale in the church's Father O'Connor Center. Admission is free. Early bird shoppers can attend a preview sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 9 for a fee of $5.

Silent Auction/Wine and Chocolate Tasting

Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.

G. Fox & Co. building
960 Main St., Hartford
860-666-2089 or
newingtonchamber.com

The chamber visits this historic city venue for the first time for this 13th annual fund-raising event. Tickets are $45 per person prior to Sept. 1, $50 after that and $55 at the door, and include free parking in the nearby Morgan Street garage.

Open House

Sept. 11, noon to 4 p.m.

Kellogg Eddy House & Museum
679 Willard Ave.
860-666-7118 or newingtonhistoricalsociety.org

After six months of closure and restoration following serious water damage this past winter, the Newington Historical Society & Trust reopens the historic Kellogg Eddy House & Museum to the public. The day will include tours, an exhibit of 19th century farming tools, the election of directors and executive officers, annual membership meeting, and a talk about dairy farming in Newington by Rod Mortensen of Mortensen Dairy Ice Cream, followed by make your own sundaes.

Run/Walk for Dom Mazzoccoli

Sept. 17, 7:30 a.m.

Lucy Robbins Welles Library (corner of Garfield Street)
runfordom.com

This fourth annual 5K run/walk steps off at 9 a.m. in memory of Dominic Mazzoccoli, former mayor and state legislator. Proceeds from the event will benefit amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research at the ALS Therapy Development Institute. **NL**

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Construction is underway on the next two phases of Seabury's expansion, including 68 new independent living residences scheduled to open in the Fall of 2017. We are now accepting applications for residence from adults 50 and over. **Learn more about how to reserve your future home at our monthly informational sessions on every 1st Thursday at 1:30pm and every 3rd Wednesday at 10:30am. Call (860) 243-6081 or (860) 243-4033 for reservations or e-mail info@seaburylife.org.**

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News roundup

Rotary plays golf

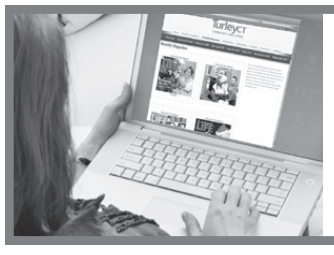
1 This winning foursome is ready to defend its title when they tee off at the Newington Rotary's fifth annual charity golf tournament Sept. 27 at the Indian Hill Country Club. They are, from left, Tom Szandrocha, Brenden Luddy, Bryan Haggerty and Rotary Vice President Mike Turgeon.

The tournament is the club's primary fund-raising event of the year, with a major portion of the proceeds benefiting the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, whose mission is to raise money and awareness of childhood cancer, primarily for research into new treatments and cures.

Previous tournaments raised $75,000 in Rotary donations. Golfers interested in participating may contact tournament chairman Ed Silverstein at cesilver@att.net.

Superintendents share thoughts

2 Over the summer vacation, Superintendent of Schools William Collins and former superintendents William Ward and Ernest Perlini met for an annual lunch to reminisce, share stories and talk about the future of the Newington Public Schools. The three men, whose combined educational experience



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spans more than 110 years, have developed a close professional and personal relationship over the years. Ward began his tenure here in 1960 and was superintendent from 1970 to 1993. Perlini became an educator here in 1969 and was the superintendent from 1993 until 2009. Collins has worked in town since 1985 and has led the district since Perlini's retirement.

Scholarship winners

3 Members of the Newington Chamber of Commerce board of directors presented their annual college scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This years' recipients are Olesya Shturypita, right, and Cheyenne Fletcher, below.

Women seek donations

The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club is looking for unwanted clothing and household items. People can fill bags with items that they or their children no longer use and bring them between 8-11 a.m. Aug. 27 to the parking lot behind Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1655 Main St., Newington.

Donated items will go to Savers, which supports the Hartsprings Foundation/Big Brothers Big Sisters. Clothing, jewelry, fashion accessories, handbags, shoes, toys, small appliances, dishes and linens will be accepted. Call Donna at 860-986-9707 or Pat at 860-310-7015 for additional information.

EMS responds to 152 calls

Newington Emergency Medical Services answered 152 emergency calls during the month of May. Of these, 133 were handled by the on-duty crew and 13 by members responding from home to staff the second ambulance.

Fifty-six calls were basic life support transports and 55 were advanced life support transports.

NEMS personnel donated more than 1,200 hours of volunteer service to their fellow citizens that month.

Rotary elects officers

4 LeeAnn Morrone was recently named president of the Newington Rotary Club. Also inducted as officers for 2016-2017 were Vice President Mike Turgeon, Secretary David Tedeschi, Treasurer Dr. Mike

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Crouchley and Pastor Joel Rissinger as sergeant-at-arms. Kyong Wilson, district governor for Rotary District 7890, administered the oath of office.

During the past year the club purchased seven specialized web cameras to be used in the neonatal intensive care units at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and John Dempsey Hospital at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington. It also made a $25,000 donation to support the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation that promotes childhood cancer research and treatment.

Outgoing President Cherilyn Spatola was presented with the international organization's prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship Award for the achievements made during her 2015-2016 term. Shown in the photo are, from left, Wilson, Morrone, Turgeon, Tedeschi and Crouchley.

Grey muzzle supports CHS

The national nonprofit Grey Muzzle Organization recently awarded its annual grants for animal welfare organizations that provide programs for at-risk older dogs. The Connecticut Humane Society, based in Newington, is one of 38 organizations representing 25 states receiving more than $225,000 in funding from the group in 2016.

"Pets in the care of animal control, and senior dogs in particular, are among those most at risk in our state," said Gordon Willard, CHS executive director. "Thanks to the Grey Muzzle Organization, we will be able to answer the ever-present and growing need of providing dentistry, diagnostics and critical care to senior dogs served by our animal welfare partners so that these very deserving pets have the second chance they need to live out their golden years."

5

Girl Scout family honored

5 At the opening of its exhibit at the Connecticut Historical Society, "Growing Up in Girl Scouts," Girl Scouts of Connecticut honored a family that has been in scouting for four generations. The matriarch, Natalie Childs Phillips, received her 85-year pin.

Phillips served as a troop leader in Hartford known as the Singing Troop that supported soldiers during World War II. She also attended the national convention, was a Gold Award advisor, and received the Thanks I Badge and the Thanks II Badge, the highest honor for a volunteer in Girl Scouting.

Her daughter, Janet Phillips May, received her 60-year-pin and loved the outdoors as a Girl Scout while growing up in Rocky Hill. May volunteered as a troop leader while she was a student at Southern Connecticut State University and then served as a troop leader for her daughter Julie's troop in Newington.

Julie May Hughes received her 30-year pin. She was a top cookie seller in Newington and enjoyed going to Girl Scout camp. Julie also earned a Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn, by installing a public pay phone in the center of town. She is currently a math teacher in Farmington.

Hannah Lynn Hughes, Julie's older daughter and Phillips' great-granddaughter, received her five-year pin. Hannah recently bridged as a Girl Scout Cadette.

Shown in the photo are, from left, Janet Phillips May, Natalie Childs Phillips, Girl Scouts of Connecticut CEO Mary Barneby, Julie May Hughes and Hannah Lynn Hughes.

Middlewoods staffer honored

An employee of Middlewoods of Newington independent and assisted living community isonce again the recipient of a Connecticut Assisted Living Association Award for Outstanding Resident Service. Jeanie Gomez, a licensed practical nurse, was honored at CALA's Annual Resident Service Awards.

Gomez was nominated for her teamwork, collaboration, cooperation and compassionate care. **NL**

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Studio 31 opens its doors

Massage and spa are now separate parts of chiropractic center

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Newington has a new venue for relaxation and healing.

Located on Lowrey Place, Studio 31 Massage and Spa is a new studio under the larger umbrella of Damato Chiropractic Center, which moved to its new location at the end of June as the practice expanded.

"When I first started with them in 2009, there were five of us," Cheryl Connolly said. "We came from one room in a hallway to this great massage space for people to come in to. Just watching the progression of that has been great."

She is the spa coordinator and licensed massage therapist. Connolly has been practicing massage therapy for nearly 10 years, with six of those at Damato Chiropractic Center. The facility, formerly on Market Square, offers a full range of chiropractic care and body treatments.

"Chiropractic is not just for people who get injured. It's wellness," Office Manager Tara Kirby said.

Eric Damato.

"I showed it to him and said, 'you can keep it, you can change whatever, but this is my idea,' and he just said 'I love it. Let's do it,'" she recalled.

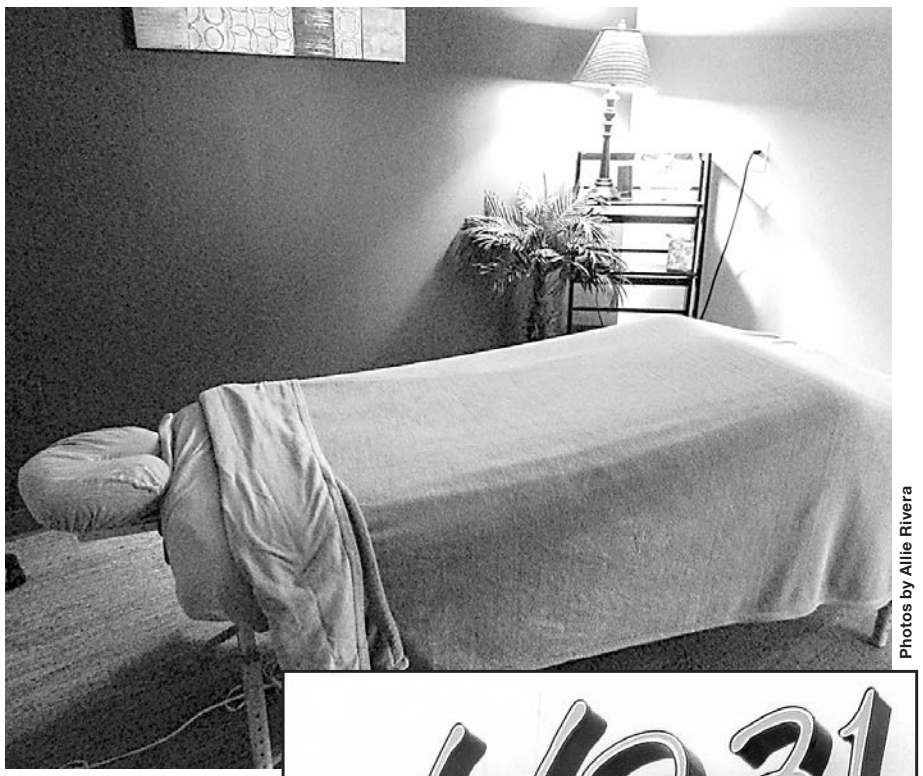
The new chiropractic center now has a separate section for Studio 31 that includes four massage rooms and a relaxation area where clients can wait for their appointments.

"I think it's great that they have somewhere to go that is separated," Kirby said. "It's a more welcoming and relaxing environment than being thrown into the more clinical world of chiropractic."

Studio 31 offers a variety of massage styles that can be used in conjunction with chiropractic care or as a completely separate treatment.

"You don't have to be a chiropractic patient to come to see us," Connolly said.

While this piece has always been true about the massage services



Photos by Allie Rivera

The new facility features four massage rooms designed to provide a relaxing atmosphere for guests.

Although Studio 31 is attached to Damato Chiropractic Center, it is also its own entity. Guests do not have to be chiropractic patients to enjoy the services offered at Studio 31.

> **"I really wanted to separate the massage part from the chiropractic part."**
>
> **– Cheryl Connolly**

To be able to fully treat the body, the practice has been offering massage therapy in conjunction with standard chiropractic work for years. As the business expanded and the owners planned to move to the larger location on Lowrey Place, Connolly saw an opportunity to expand the massage aspect as well.

"I really wanted to separate the massage part from the chiropractic part," she said. "I knew the potential of what we could do."

Connolly came up with the idea for Studio 31 and created a menu and plan that she presented to Dr.

offered, she said that by having massage in its own space, more clients and passersby are able to see Studio 31 as its own entity.

The studio has eight massage therapists on staff offering everything from traditional Swedish massage to deep tissue, sports, trigger point, hot stone, pre-natal and reflexology, as well as a newly hired skin specialist for skin treatments.

"A lot of us have different modalities that we do that we're certified for," Connolly said. "I honestly feel as if we have the most talented massage therapists on this staff. They're all so knowledgeable in what they do and they all genuinely love it."

She stressed that the reasons for massage in modern times have expanded. While previously it was regarded as simply a luxury, for many massage is now a necessary treatment.

"It's really a necessity for some people," she said. "It is a wide spectrum of people that we work with, from Central's [Central Connecticut State University] sports teams to the Hartford Wolf Pack.

"There are so many reasons why you come in for massage work and I'm lucky to have a staff that treats all of that," she added.

One of the aspects of Studio 31 and Damato Chiropractic Center that Connolly believes sets the business apart is the family atmosphere among those who work there.

"We enjoy each other, which is why it all works very well," she said. "We all genuinely care about each other. We're like a proud family."

Despite moving to a larger location, Connolly said that family feeling has not been lost.

"It's just a different atmosphere, but it's still us," she said. **NL**

Studio 31 Massage & Spa is located at 123 Lowrey Place. It can be reached at 860-757-3798 or visit studio31massagespa.com.

September calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

1 Evening Book Discussion, 7 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., 860-665-8707 or newingtonct.gov/library

4 Kiwanis Big K Flea Market, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Constitution Square, also Sept. 11, 18 and 25

6 Play with Us, 10:15 a.m., for families with young children who have special needs, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also Sept. 13, 20 and 27

Let's Make Music Together, noon, for children ages 2-4 and a caregiver, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Half-Day Fun, 2:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

7 Just a Story and a Song, 10:15 a.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also Sept. 14

8 MS Support Group, noon to 2 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-667-1314 or 860-236-2751

Tech 4 U, 5:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 1:30 p.m. Sept. 22

Let's Talk Movies from the 1950s, 6:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also Sept. 22

9 Art Auction & Wine Tasting, 6-9 p.m., Autism Families CONNECTicut, 600 North Mountain Road, autismfamiliesct.org, $35 per person or $60 per couple

10 Tag Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of the Holy Spirit, 183 Church St., 860-667-0690 or 860-665-7574, preview sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 9 for $5 fee

Friends of the Library Media Sale & Sci Fi Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Silent Auction/Wine Tasting/ Chocolate Challenge, 6:30 p.m., G. Fox & Co. building, 960 Main St., Hartford, 860-666-2089 or newingtonchamber.com

11 Open House Celebration, noon to 4 p.m., Kellogg Eddy House & Museum, 679 Willard Ave., 860-666-7118 or newingtonhistoricalsociety.org

12 Let's Make Music Together, 6 p.m., for ages 2-4 and a caregiver, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also Sept. 19 and 26

Library Board Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

National Alliance on Mental Illness, 7 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-205-9542 or 860-830-2129

13 Movies and More @ the Library: "Suffragette," 1 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

The Elderly Brothers in concert, 6:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

14 Chess Club, 4 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Jr. Cookbook Club, 6:30 p.m., for grades K-2, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

15 Cozytime Stories, 4 p.m., for grades K-2, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Tech Troubleshooting with Teens, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

17 Newington Waterfall Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Market Square, newingtonwaterfallfestival.com

Tales to Tails, 1 p.m., read to a certified therapy dog, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 4:30 p.m. Sept. 29

Run/Walk for Dom Mazzoccoli, 7:30 a.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library (corner of Garfield Street), runfordom.com

Blood Drive, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sphinx Shrine, 197 Deming St., 1-800-733-2767

18 George G. Hanel Series presents Acoustic Eidolon, 2 p.m., town hall auditorium, 860-665-8707 or newingtonct.gov/library

19 The Joy of Coloring: An Adult Coloring Group, 6:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, also 10 a.m. Sept. 28

Teen Advisory Board, 6:30 p.m., for ages 13–18, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

20 Stories and Art, noon, for children ages 2–4 and a caregiver, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Medicare 101, 1 and 6:30 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library

21 The Science of Hogwarts, 6:30 p.m., for grades 3-6, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., 860-665-8707 or newingtonct.gov/library

24 Annual Fall Festival, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, 124 Maple Hill Ave., 860-666-3331

Construction Club, 1 p.m., Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 95 Cedar St., 860-665-8707 or newingtonct.gov/library

GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club, 7 p.m., Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., 860-666-4371

26 Forever YA Book Club, 6 p.m., for ages 14 and older, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

27 Pajama Yoga, 7 p.m., for ages 5-8 and their caregivers, registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

29 Publisher 2013 Basics, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Lucy Robbins Welles Library

Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

newington LIFE

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Editorial

Save a pet and save yourself, too

A popular bumper sticker reads "Who saved who?" It refers to people who have decided to adopt an abandoned or otherwise available cat or dog and found it to be a wonderful, enriching experience.

Rescuing pets is becoming an increasingly popular activity. They might have been abused, or abandoned, or given up because their owners could no longer care for them. Perhaps someone developed an allergy to their fur or dander.

Whatever the reason, they went from homes into shelters and suddenly found themselves living in cages with a limited amount of attention from the human staff and volunteers.

They didn't do anything wrong, so they must wonder how they ended up in such a predicament.

Pets provide such a great deal of warmth and joy. They are always affectionate, even when the people they live with are not. They offer unrequited love, a quality often hard to find in people. They can soothe us when we are sad and perk us up when we are sick.

The selection is not limited to cats and dogs. Visit the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington on any given day and there may be exotic birds, rabbits, chinchillas and other animals available for the taking.

Puppies and kittens are cute and tend to be adopted more quickly, but there's nothing wrong with adopting an older or mixed breed pet. Some of them may have medical needs but can live long and happy lives with a certain amount of care.

Learning how to love and care for a pet is a wonderful experience for children. It's also nice for senior citizens who may benefit from having a four-legged companion around the house.

Speaking of seniors, how about adopting an older animal? They may not be as cute as the little ones, but they still have love to give. What a wonderful thing it is when someone rescues an older animal from a shelter or other organization and allows it to live out its remaining days in happiness and comfort.

The Connecticut Humane Society and other area shelters are always looking for families to give an animal a new "forever" home. Adopting a dog or cat may also prove a way to improve life for everyone in the home.

Who rescued who, indeed.

Letter

Express gratitude to Newington EMS

To the Editor:

We would like to thank Bliss Dasilva from Newington Emergency Medical Services for providing community training and education for the citizens and local businesses here in Newington. We took the CPR training class provided by Newington EMS and are very thankful for this opportunity that was provided right here in our own community.

Cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in America. According to the American Heart Association, if CPR is performed during the first few minutes of cardiac arrest, the person's chance of survival can double or even triple.

Very few people outside medical staff and facilities are CPR certified. Seventy percent of cardiac arrests occur at home away from these facilities and professionals. Knowing how to do CPR can increase someone's chances of survival if they were to go into cardiac arrest.

As health care professionals, we ask everyone to participate in this worthwhile program. Whether it is educating yourself or your staff, Bliss was a great instructor who made the class a very educational and enjoyable experience.

Kathleen M. Riley, N.D.
Susan Yarett, N.D.
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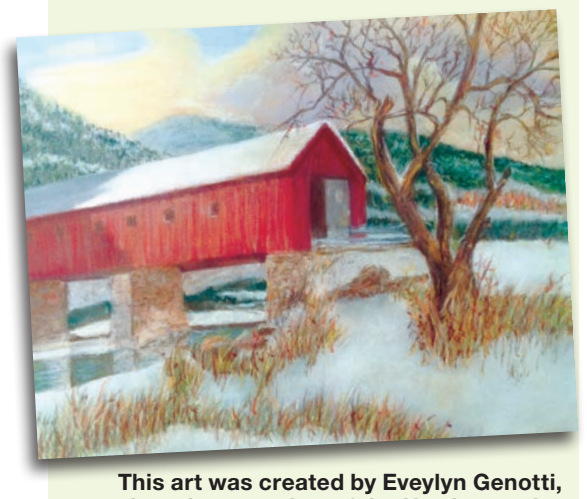
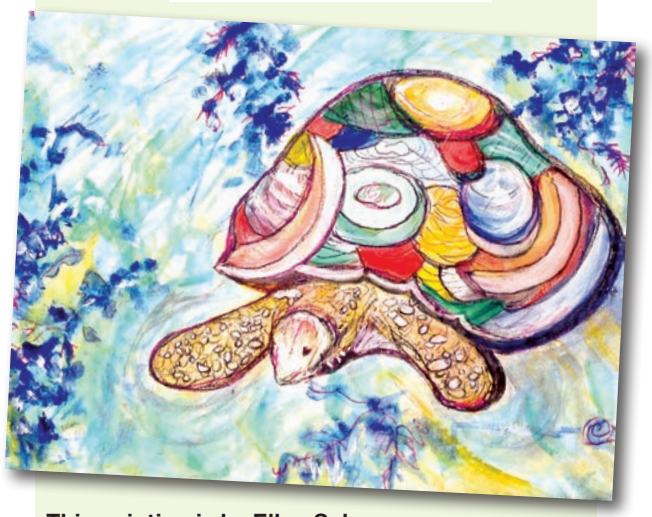
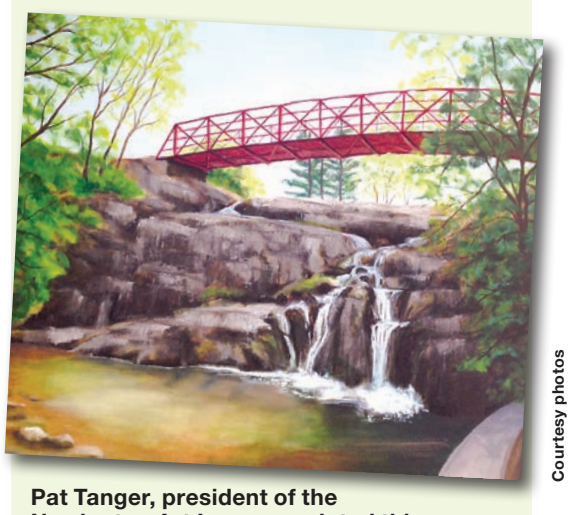


This art was created by Eveylyn Genotti, a longtime member of the Newington Art League, and donated to the organization by the Genotti family after her death.



This painting is by Ellen Schuman, a visually impaired artist who serves as co-vice president of the Newington Art League.



Pat Tanger, president of the Newington Art League, painted this waterfall scene.

Courtesy photos

Home is where the art is

Newington Art League searches for new housing

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Walking into the back room of Pat Tanger's home is like walking into a private museum.

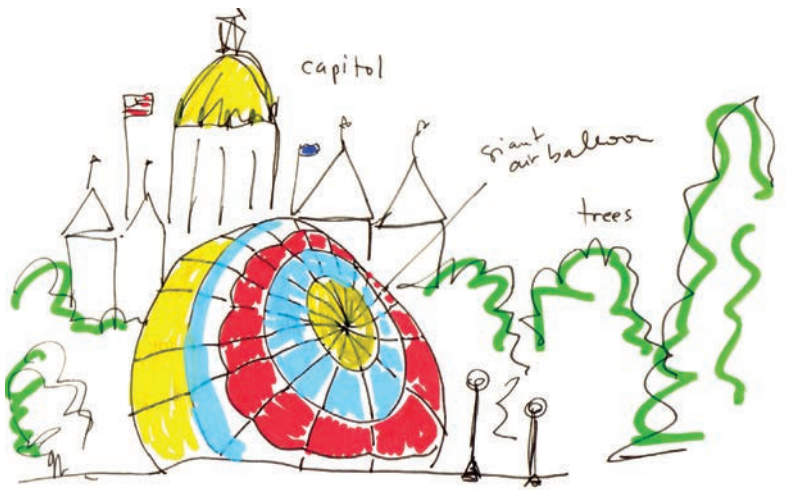
An easel is set up near the back window, a partially completed pastel drawing of a dog staring out from the page. Leaning against shelves and dressers are pencil sketches of artwork to come.

In addition to her own work are stacks of paintings and other art that has found temporary housing in the room as the Newington Art League struggles to find a more permanent home.

"We are, unfortunately, a very well-kept secret in town," Tanger said.

As president of the league for the past six years, she has seen a great deal of change within the organization, primarily what they consider its central location.

"There used to be a cultural center in Newington and we had a space



Don't miss Envisionfest Hartford on Saturday, September 17! Enjoy over 100 completely FREE events, activities and performances as well as free admission to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the Connecticut Science Center. Try yoga or Zumba on Burr Mall, head to the library for Hip Hop Nation 2016, featuring workshops, performances and breakdancing, take a trip to the top of the Travelers Tower, play giant games in Bushnell Park, shop at the Envisionfest Marketplace, and so much more.

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FALL Arts

This painting is by Ellen Schuman.

in there," she said. "Then they moved us from what was an accessible, big place, to the second floor of the town hall, and then after that to the second floor of the Kellogg-Eddy House."

Many of the roughly 40 members of the league are retirees and older residents and these locations were often difficult for members to access. Due to both accessibility and spatial constraints, the league hosts its meetings in rented space at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center.

As for the group's storage space at the Kellogg-Eddy House, Tanger said that recent renovations after winter flooding forced the group to temporarily move their belongings out. Upon returning from a camping trip in early August, Tanger learned that the move would be more permanent.

"They said that they are going to need to put a caretaker in at the Kellogg-Eddy House," she said. "I met with the town manager and they said 'we wish we could help you, but we don't have any place.'"

The art league has been in town for nearly 30 years, during which time it has developed a series of programs and charitable endeavors it undertakes each year.

One of the largest aspects of the league is the meetings it hosts six times per year at the senior center. Open to the public, each brings in a Connecticut-based artist to give a demonstration on how he or she creates their work.

Additionally, the league has in the past hosted a free weekly painting session for members on Monday mornings. It hopes to continue this opportunity and is looking at options for where to host the gatherings.

In addition to opportunities for members and residents to create, the art league also has an annual scholarship program for a Newington High School student.

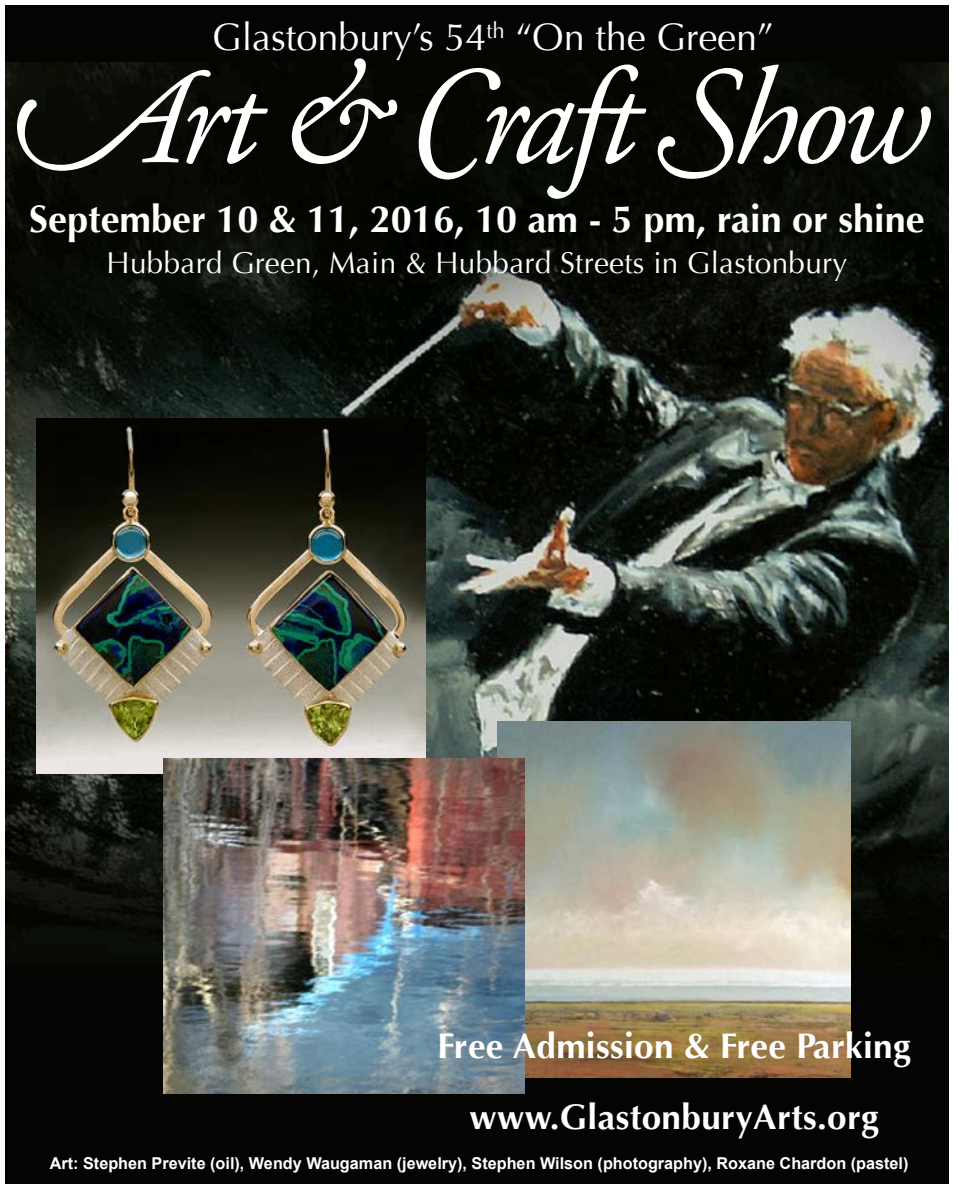
It works to be visible around town by participating in some of Newington's largest events, including Extravaganza and the Waterfall Festival. For the past five years, the art league has sponsored an annual Chalk Walk during the Waterfall Festival on Market Square.

"We need more arts in Newington. It's good for the economy, it's good for everybody's brains, it's just a good thing all around."

– Pat Tanger

"Kids and adults get a box of pastels and a square on the street and they have one day from 7:00 in the morning to 2:00 in the afternoon to draw in the square," Tanger said. "We have little prizes and there is always an award for People's Choice."

This year, the local Subway sandwich shop is teaming up with the league by providing lunch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FALL Arts

vouchers to participating artists.

Along with the efforts the group puts in to helping others around town, many members feel that the art league has been beneficial to their lives by allowing them to pursue a passion they may not have otherwise practiced.

"My father liked to paint, so really I've been painting and drawing since I was a little kid, but I didn't really start until I retired," Tanger said.

Ellen Schuman, a co-vice president and retired Hartford teacher, is visually impaired and said that being part of the league has had huge benefits for her.

"I got involved with the Newington Art League and it was one of the most wonderful things I ever did," Schuman said. "I was looking for something that would bring me joy, and I've been told you can't do this or you can't do that, but they accepted me."

Through their work, members hope to be able to provide an artistic outlet and education to a wider group of residents, regardless of their experience or talent.

"We're not an exclusive, closed-door group," Tanger said. "You don't have to be an artist to join us."

Both women stressed the importance of the arts for individuals and the town as a whole.

"We need more arts in Newington," Tanger said. "It's good for the economy, it's good for everybody's brains, it's just a good thing all around."

For many, arts education begins in school, and both Tanger and Schuman said that Newington is fortunate in that area.

"The art program in town, kindergarten through high school, is wonderful," Schuman said. "Newington art teachers, I don't think they're given enough credit. That's our future. They're providing a gift and a venue for kids to find interest in the arts."

For Tanger, however, it is important to reach out to people so they can continue practicing the arts after they leave school.

"Yes, there's art in the schools, but what about after you graduate and before you retire? That's a whole bracket of time," she said with a laugh.

To be able to provide those opportunities, however, will likely require a more stable home for the group. Tanger said she and other members of the league have been looking into potential grants they can apply for to help rent space and offer more workshops and classes.

They have run into several roadblocks.

"To get grants from a lot of places you have to be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) for three years, but our three-year mark isn't until October," Tanger said. "Other grants, in order to be eligible, you need to have a place, so right off the bat we don't qualify for that."

Although they are staying optimistic, some members are concerned about the future of the group.

"It would be a very sad day in all the art league people's lives if it no longer existed," Schuman said. "It's been one of the gifts of my life."

Tanger added that public relations is not the group's strongest skill, but when it has reached out to others, the response has been excellent support.

"People in this town are good. I think if people knew our plight, they might help out," she said. **NL**

For more information visit newingtonartleague.org.

This painting is by Ellen Schuman.

This painting is by Eveylyn Genotti.

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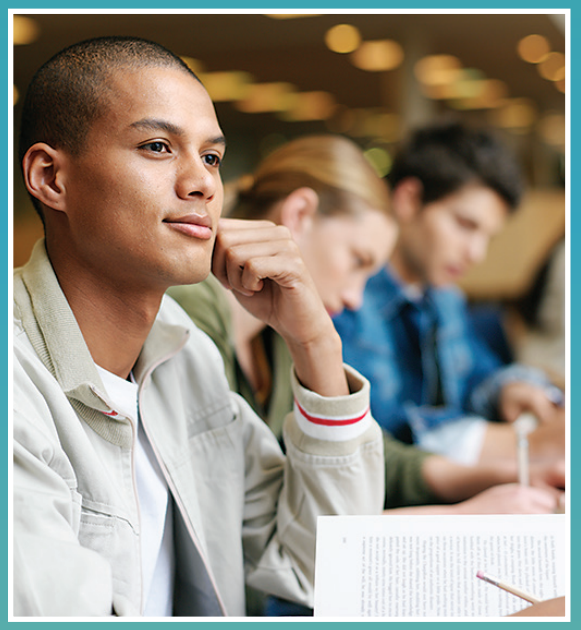

SCHOOL

September 2016

Back to School

Getting a back-to-school boost

Tips, tricks and trends for shopping

by Alison Jalbert
Assistant Editor

The end of carefree summer days can be a bummer, but going back to school can be an exciting time, especially if students have some new clothes to boost their confidence.

Amanda Sirica, spokesperson for Westfarms mall, said back-to-school sales and promotions are in full swing as summer ends, but many of them will last beyond the first day of school.

"This is the second biggest selling season for retailers," she said, second only to the Christmas season. "There's still a considerable amount of back-to-school shopping after school starts."

The number one item on most students' list, regardless of age, is a new backpack. After the previous year's daily use, Sirica said kids want a new backpack. Elementary school students are drawn to bright colors and designs, which brands like Jansport offer. For a sportier look, many students opt for backpacks from the North Face, which offer mesh side pockets, bungee cords on the outside and a waterproof lining. Vera Bradley backpacks boast a variety of colorful, patterned options.

Sirica said there will be a lot of personality on students' feet this fall, as sneakers are getting a makeover.

"Vans, Converse and Nike are doing things with geometric patterns, floral and animal print," she said, with high-top versions popular this year. "White Converse Chuck Taylors are popular."

Denim is a staple in back-to-school wardrobes, and skinny jeans and "jeggings" are a return trend for girls. Boys gravitate towards relaxed fit and bootcut jeans.

"Something new this year is you'll see more of the distressed denim, but you're also going to see some fresh, frayed hemlines that are going to be new to the denim scene for kids," Sirica said.

Since back-to-school shopping is all about comfort and practicality, she said she's seeing a lot of activewear on students' wish lists. It's been a staple in boys' closets for a long time, but it's becoming popular with girls, too, with brands like Adidas, Puma, Nike and Under Armour.

"It can take them from the hallway to after-school sports practice," she said.

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Back to School

For girls, printed leggings are on trend this season, which Sirica said are the "ultimate piece" for a mix-and-match wardrobe of girls of all ages. For boys, it's all about layering.

"They really like to wear the embellished short sleeve graphic tees," she said. "It's a go-to, paired with their favorite jeans and a button-down shirt, whether it's a printed plaid or a real classic button-down polo shirt."

High low hemlines on tops are a continuing trend for girls, and varsity sweaters are a new trend for boys. Button-down dress shirts in denim, chambray or plaid are popular for girls, which Sirica said are perfect to pair with knee-high boots or leggings as the weather cools down. Ankle booties or Converse are also options.

"We're seeing a lot of boho-inspired peasant tops. They're fun and flirty for girls' wardrobes. They're very feminine with embroidery and lace appliques," she said. "For boys, the classic golf polo shirt in vibrant colors [is popular]."

Sirica said back-to-school shopping is "an excellent time" to take advantage of discounts and replace worn-out basics like socks, underwear and T-shirts.

"The sales and promotions are plentiful. Take advantage of those," she said.

Fall can be a tricky season to shop for, with cool mornings at the bus stop and warm afternoons at recess. While many retailers are already stocked with warmer wear, Sirica said layering is key for fall.

"Kids can shed layers in the classroom or at recess. It's better to be prepared than not," she said.

The key to successful back-to-school shopping is taking advantage of timing and tools to stay within budget, she said. Make a list of what each child needs, and start with the basics – denim, sneakers and a new backpack. Designate the stores to visit ahead of time, making the trip more efficient.

"Back-to-school shopping for some parents can be a daunting task, so it does make it easier to see what's on sale before you shop, have a plan and get in and out quick. Set expectations with a budget and goals," she suggested.

Before even making a list, Sirica said it's smart to take stock of what's in a child's wardrobe.

"Start by taking inventory of what you already have. If there's not a recent growth spurt, you're in luck. If you ask parents, they will do that – take the time to clean out the closet, see what fits and what we need," she said.

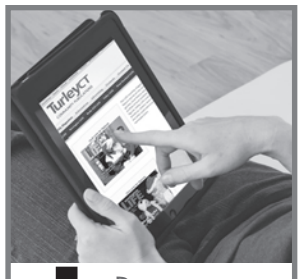
It's not necessary to buy a completely new wardrobe; Sirica said adding in key new pieces to spruce up existing clothing is enough to give kids the boost they need going back to school.

"Back-to-school clothes make kids feel good. They make them feel ready to take on a new year with new goals in the classroom," she said.

Although most people associate back-to-school shopping with clothes, Sirica said this is a perfect time to take advantage of the sales and promotions at technology retailers. Smartphones, tablets and laptops are all popular purchases this time of year, and not just for students. Parents can benefit from these sales, too. **NL**

"Back-to-school clothes make kids feel good. They make them feel ready to take on a new year with new goals in the classroom."

–Amanda Sirica, a spokesperson for for Westfarms



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Students participate in technology expo

Students from the Newington Public Schools participated in the Connecticut Educators Computer Association Technology Exposition at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Courtesy photos

Noah Borrup, left, and Joseph Gionfriddo use their Chromebooks to present their exhibit's information.

Shea Devanney, Maddy Jordan, Riley Jackson and Anna Saunders at the CECA Tech Expo.

John Paterson School student presenter Joseph Gionfriddo and Noah Borrup share their technology exhibit with state Rep. Gary Byron of Newington, Lori Baylock, and student presenters from Martin Kellogg Middle School.

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‘Dear Daycare Parent’

Friends pen book to help new parents navigate the world of daycare

by Alicia B. Smith
Staff Writer

Jo-Ann Parylak was admittedly nervous on her first day of student teaching at a day care facility. When classroom teacher Jackie Rioux of Newington asked Parylak if she would be working in her classroom, Parylak answered yes and Rioux laughed maniacally.

It was in that moment the two knew they would become good friends.

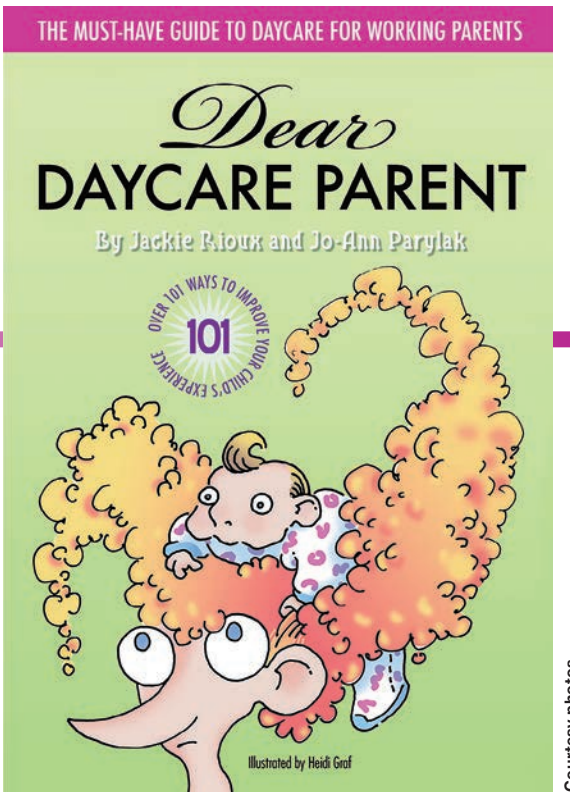
“We just clicked,” Rioux said.

“We’ve been friends ever since,” Parylak added.

The two worked for about a dozen years at the former Newington Children’s Hospital and were together again for a number of years at Knight Hall, a preschool in West Hartford.

They not only share a love of children, but each possesses an easy-going attitude and complements the other in the classroom. Their friendship is so strong it withstood the arduous task of writing a book together.

“Dear Daycare Parent” is a step-by-step guide for parents who will be dropping off their young child at a day care center. The book details exactly what parents can expect, the things they


THE MUST-HAVE GUIDE TO DAYCARE FOR WORKING PARENTS
Dear
DAYCARE PARENT
By Jackie Rioux and Jo-Ann Parylak
OVER 101 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE
101
Illustrated by Heidi Graf

Courtesy photos

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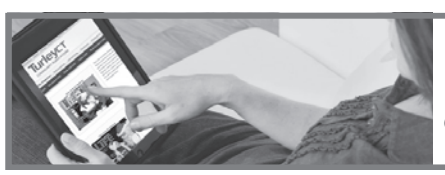

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Back to School

should do to make the process go as smoothly as possible, and what they might be feeling – all perfectly natural.

The idea for their book stemmed from what Rioux said was the constant communication, in the form of letters, she wrote to the parents of the children in her care. She was regularly sending home reminders about packing extra clothing, not putting food in glass containers, making sure that staff is aware of any allergies, and the letters went on and on.

"I wanted to clear up any misunderstandings," she said.

Rioux also realized that some parents might not even be aware of some of these issues, especially if this is their first experience with sending a child to day care.

It finally dawned on her that she had several years' worth of suggestions for parents, so many she could write a book. When she mentioned her idea to Parylak, they decided to do just that.

"The parent looks at it as 'my child,' we have to look at is as 'all the children,'" Rioux said.

Many of the notes gently reminded parents of the many things to remember to ensure that their children are well cared for and to enable staff to be more efficient.

Through their note writing to parents, the women quickly learned that if they used humor, a parent was more apt to read the note, rather than let it get crumpled in their child's bag. They adopted this approach as they assembled the book.

"We like to include why we said what we did. We are not trying to be preachy, just trying to inform."

–Jackie Rioux

"We wanted to make it lighthearted," Parylak said.

"It's best to deal with kids with humor," Rioux added.

Their book was written in such a way as to literally take a parent through a child's day at day care. It gives suggestions on how to make it as easy as possible to find a day care program that feels right for you and your child and to know what to expect on the first day of dropping off your child.

There is also material covering everything in between including snacks, proper clothing for going outside and nap time. The book includes several examples for better understanding and is punctuated with fun illustrations.

"We like to include why we said what we did," Rioux said. "We are not trying to be preachy, just trying to inform."

The book is geared toward first-time parents who may just be starting to think about day care. Parylak said it would be a perfect gift for an expectant mother, as it is never too early to consider child care options.

Several people who read the book told the authors they wished they had known then what they know now.

For Rioux, who continues to work part time at Knight Hall, the number-one rule she wants to convey to parents is label, label and label every item belonging to your child.

"That's my big thing," she said with a laugh.

Parylak's big thing is that parents not send their child in wearing dressy clothes or anything the parent would not want to get dirty.

"They want to explore into the

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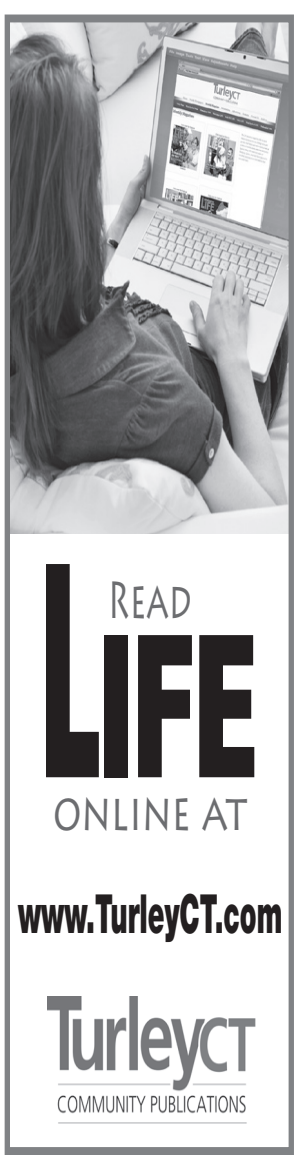

Back to School

sensory table, or play with the Play-Doh or do cooking projects or, in spring, do planting projects."

Too often, she said, the children were hesitant to do the exploring they desired to out of fear that they would upset their parents if they got their clothes dirty.

"I love to be creative and spontaneous," Rioux said. "Every day can be a new experience when you are working with kids. There is movement, there is creativity and room for adventure."

"I love playing with kids," Parylak said when asked what attracted her to the field of early childhood education. "I love being with kids, I love their energy."

Both women have made impressions on many of the children in their care and it's not uncommon to meet a now 20-something-year-old who remembers them from his or her day care experience.

"The kids always remember Jo-Jo," Rioux said of her friend.

"That makes me so happy we made an impression," Parylak said.

Rioux has lived in town for more than 20 years and was the assistant director of the preschool at the Newington Children's Hospital.

Parylak, who lives in Unionville, joined Rioux at the hospital and later at Knight Hall. Today she volunteers as a tutor. She is also an active storyteller and is a member of a number of story-telling organizations.

While this first self-published book covers a myriad of topics, both women said they have enough material for a second book. They also understand that their book may need to be revised as the day care industry changes. **NL**

"Dear Daycare Parent" can be purchased through amazon.com or at deardaycareparent.com.

Photo by Alicia B. Smith

Jackie Rioux and good friend Jo-Ann Parylak offer an insider's view to parents as they navigate the world of day care.

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Dakota

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Achievement merits attention

The following students were named to the honor roll for the fourth quarter at Newington High School.

High Honors

Grade 9

Baha Alsaqri, Christia Alvizo, Mary Ancona, Delilah Bernartz, Jordan Buslewicz, Maggie Callahan, Jevin Calma, Jake Cardines, Kaitlyn Chojnicki, Erika Cuevas, Autumn DeBlois, Virginia DeFrances, John DeGirolamo, John Famiglietti, Theodore Fravel, Isabella Galdamez, Samantha Gorski, Jillian Grande, Janize Hernandez, Rebecca Hood, Kelly Iskra, Lauren Johnson, Samuel Johnson, Taylor Kilduff, Eric Kozikowski, Patrick Kulac, William Lichota, Collin Liedke, Nicole Martula, Jillian McCormick, Izabela Moczydlowski, Abigail Molloy, Yaci Moni-Rutkowski, Patrick Nguyen, Michelle Nizielski, Holly Normandeau, Zachary Palanza, Ivan Taras-Panchyshyn, Michael Patnode, Ryan Peruta, Daniel Pestrichello, Michael Pinard, Daniella Pinho, Vanessa Quaranta, Riley Quigley, Mohammed Rahman, Marion Rodriguez, Kevin Russell, Jenna Scanlon, Mia Servidone, Ryan Sharp, Austin Silva, Lucinda Slattery, Erin Stenvall, Romeica Taylor, Leah Tofeldt, Aiden Toth, Brian Turgeon, Eric Venables, Zoe Walk, Carli Weeden, Jason Yeung, Jacon Zadroga and Shihao Zhai.

Grade 10

Dominika Adamczyk, Benjamin Arora, Syed Asar, Gynno Bacaoco, Grace Bielesz, Gavin Bissoni, Jessica Buslewicz, Grave Cala, Ashley Cayo, Maria Ceban, Al Chan, Diana Coleman, Olivia Colon, Skylar Couillard, Prachi Dave, Kiley Davies, Sabrina Deneault, Tuuyen Dinh, Kathryn Duffner, Justin Field, Alexa Freitas, Ashley Gospodarczyk, Caitlin Gray, Victoria Hathaway, Sashesa Haughton, Brendan Henriques, Kiana Hooper, Lukas Houle, Tram Huynh, Sruthi Iyer, Emma Johnson, Jamie Jose, Mateusz Kaczynski, Emily Karanian, Jacob Knowlton, Antonia Laites, Edward Lund, Khang Nguyen, Daniel O'Brien, Luke Pappalardo, Danielle Parrotte, Anami Patel, Elizabeth Richmond, Yasmin Rincon, Monica Sadil, Carly Saindon, Pema Sherpa, Justine Strom, Kenneth Swanson, Kiana Tan, Jasmine Tran, Mindy Tran, Skylar Voorhies, William Walsh, Julia Wnuk, Angelina Zacharias, Sarah Zogu and Kevin Zvonarek.

Grade 11

Hannah Aforismo, Stephanie Akosa, Andrew Alekseiko, Katelyn Andrews, Megan Andrews, Britney Bazzano, Lauren Brooks, Rei Buffi, Abigail Buslewicz, Abigail Cabral, Jacqueline Callaghan, Patrick Callahan, Ryan Cappellucci, Austin Caracciolo, Emily Carle, Bahar Celikis, Monica Chabros, Shelbin Cheriyan, Robert Ciaffaglione, Moses Clark-Devost, Mitchell Coia, Tyler Coleman, Zachary Correll, Vinh Dau, Yanelly Del Valle, Iryna Demyanova, Gabriela Disla Suarez, Thomas Doyle, Symantha Fazzino, Jillian Forauer, Ryan Grande, Journee Hardaway, Mallory Jackson, Ariya Jacob, Ayana Jacob, Gabrielle Jacunski, Yash Jinwala, Courtney Kamansky, Ariel Keen, Niksa Khandoker, Benjamin Labas, Katerina Lagace, Jalanie Lawrence, Madison Lewicki, Kenneth Luna, Maria MacNeill, Allison Madrazo, Lindsey Mangiafico, Neve Manion, Jordan Margarido, Danielle Marino, Teodora Markova, Jason Marques, Denny Mathew, Cassandra Moree, Biranna Nedjoika, Tam Nguyen, Samantha Nunes, Manav Patel, Alexis Pestrichello, Lauren Petrozza, Natalia Petrykowska, Natalie Remiszewski, Lauren Rioux, Jeremy Rippel, Matthew Roberts, Corinda Sanford, Abru Santhosh, Tiffany Santos, Austin Sargent, Tyler Savluk, Charlotte Shepherd, Archa Shibu, Christopher Silva, Victoria Skonieczny, Nicole Sliwinski, Kaito Smith, Alexander Stolarczyk, Madison Suchocki, Roselyn Terrazos-Moreno, Jennifer Tougas, Joanna Tran, Daniel Vala, Julianna Vass, Jessica Veilleux, Kira Venables, Michael Vesci, Lucia Visconti, Karlene Welles, Benjamin Weyman and David Winslow.

Grade 12

Ron Abraham, Emily Andrzejewski, Samantha Arasimowicz, Syed Asar, Alyssa Bellizzi, Rebecca Bernardo, Elias Bitzarakis, Connor Buckley, Jennifer Casparino, Aeisha Cirunay, Victoria Cornell, Valerie Dunsing, Sarah Ericson, Eric Evon, Amanda Famiglietti, Cameron Fedina, Brianna Feliciano, Amanda Gagnon, Hayley Gilchrest, Isabella Gorski, Brianna Huebner, Isha Jinwala, Maryjane Johnson, Jakub Karpiej, Taimoor Khan, Darien Kupec, Kayla LaRosa, Deanna LaVoie, Kaila Lozada, Mackenzie Luiz, Olivia Maldonado, Karen Martinez, Austin Matteson, Haylee Morgan, Michaela Murray, Casey Nash, Raymond Niestat, Kimberly Nguyen, Renata Pastuszak, Prachi Patel, Tanvi Patel, Douglas Phan, Kyle Pierson, Adam Porell, Jessica Reyor, Grace Ruzzuto, Elizabeth Christine Santic, Nicole Saucier, Olesya Shturypita, Hannah Silverwatch, Brianna Simonetti, Johnny Sit, Zackory Trommer, Nikki Truong, Anna Waldzinska, Carly Wanner-Hyde, Tessa Woods and McKayla Wyble.

Honors

Grade 9

Kaylee Allen, Cooper Austin, Andrew Barresi, Azya Bass, Paolo Bautista, Tatiana Bilbraut, Jason Boghosian, Alissa Borselle, Matthew Bradley, Shaleeah Bruff, Jordan Brunetti, Anthony Carlson, Noah Carrasco, Jack Chomko, Olivia Chylinski, Abigail Coia, Michael Colagiovanni, Emily Corcoran, Ellia Dauch, Sean Davis, Matthew Duffy, Jason Dumais, Ethan Errera, Kristin Florek, Abygale Flores, Maya Gakowiak, Grant Garcia, Erick Garofolo, Peter Gionfriddo, Jenna Girouard, Jared Goldstein, Rebecca Goldstein, Cyan Gonzalez, Isabella Gugliotti, Vishaal Gurrala, Alexander Haaser, Julia Holland, Mekha Jebbu, Ethan Johnson, Jenaya Jorden, Tyler Joseffy, Patrick Juvencio, Alyssa Kempesta, Ciara Kilkenny, Mara Klin, Abigail Lyons, Omar Majdoub, Sophia Maselli, Julia Mazur, Amber Miller, Jenelle Miller, Feduk Mirza, Kevin Montgomery, Jordi Morel, Ryan Nakonechny, Vanessa Nardi, Ryan O'Connor, Joseph Olandt, Joseph Oliva, Emily Petronio, Mateusz Petrykowski, Joshua Picklesimer, Matthew Plourd, Katrina Porter, Jeajuan Ramos, Kristina Ramsaroop, De'Jah Register, Andrew Rothauser, Nicole Santoro, Victoria Savluk, Jack Scanlon, Albert Schoenborn, Grace Smedberg, Emily Sousa, Olivia St. Remy, Robert Stabert, Nicole Strout, Haley Sullivan, Matthew Tanguay, Elizabeth Taschuk, Dylan Taylor, Rachel Thureson, Arnold Tirado Uribe, Allyson Tofeldt, Lauren Tougas, Logan Trommer, Maksym Ugrak, Talisa Vasquez, Lexus Vega, Rachel Veilleux, Andrew Vesci, David Villalba, Darious Walwyn-Wynter and Justin Youmans.

Grade 10

Ashley Ault, Riya Babu, Matthew Barron, Christian Batista, Chloe Bilodeau, Patrick Boucher, Abigail Bourgoin, Connor Brennan, Julia Burton, Ronald Cayunda, Hallie Chiarito, Daniel Cloutier, Tayena Colon, Spencer Couillard, Jorge Cruz, Sebastian Daraz, Ryan Dean, Jan deCastro, Jared Galarza, William Gardner, Cassidy Girolamo, Michael Golowiejko, Sophia Gonsalves, Vivian Ho, Alexandra Houldcroft, Cooper Johnson, Amanda Kapuscinski, Jay LaRosa, Daniel Lasota, Jillian Lavery, Shinia Lawson, Henry Levinson, Kobi Logan, David Magsayo, Madelyn Mangiafico, Kimberly Marasigian, Alissa Matoy, Zachary Miller, Ryan

Back to School

Murphy, Robert Nagy, Ashley Nogareda, Alyssa Oja, Claudia Padykula, Dominic Palaia, Ryan Pereira, Robert Petronio, Jessica Pierzchalski, Brian Pizzoferrato, Jacob Reyes, Giovanna Rivera, Konrad Sadowniczyk, Leah Sanderson, Anthony Sena, Michael Shooshan, Shiyakumari Solanki, Erik St. Pierre, Sarah Stepak, Riley Tehan, Lauren Theriault, Jason Vereneau, Blayne Wanner-Hyde and Olivia Wronka.

Grade 11

Kadam AliBakhsh, Michael Allo, James Ancona, Emily Austin, Brian Baglan, Admir Basha, Kevin Bibraut, Kacey Blais, Alex Bowen, Arayana Bracken, Angela Breault, McKayla Burgos, Samantha Burnett, Matthew Cassone, Alexis Crawford, Michael Dano, Kinsey DelBuono, Gabriella DeRiu, Briana DeSouza, Bibi Duah, Jenna Dube, Michelle Duong, Justin Durocher, Jason Gamble, Gage Garcia, Luke Gilchrest, Andrea Hall, Samantha Hammond, Noah Hedberg, Karli Hellman, Alexandra Hernandez, Susanna House, Mariester Jara, Rebecca Klett, Martha Krawczynski, Jack Lam, Brittney Lenzi, Asia Leonard, Nicole Maldonado, Madison Marques, Ahmer Masood, Alexis Mercado, Jacqueline Minor, Wesley Murillo, Alex Nizielski, Sean Oushana, Anthony Palaia, Melanie Pantano, Isabella Pilkey, Diana Pinho, Jonathan Plavcan, Alyssa Reis, Alexa Rinaldi, Aliana Rivera, Emily Robinson, Kayleigh Roman, Zachary Saunders, Taylor Sharp, Nickolas Sherman, Brandon Spada, Samantha Strout, Joseph Taber, Camille Taylor, Makaiyah Thompson, Shannon Tofeldt, Michelle Truong, Maxwell Turgeon, Christian Twano, Emma Valade, Delaina Vass, Katherine Volyanik and Bailey Womack.

Grade 12

Mahdi Adittya, Joelene Antoine, Caitlyn Banks, Kaitlyn Bernacki, Caroline Bielaszka, Corryne Birchall, Marie Bishop, Ashliany Burgio, Madeline Rose Camalig, Theresa Cocola, Erica Condon, Luis Cruz, Joseph DiNino, Cheyenne Fletcher, Grant Ganley, Ricardo Garcia, Alex Giansanti, Alan Giudice, Natalie Harackiewicz, Sawera Hussan, Richard Junquera, Alexander Kemp, Marta Kempisty, Sarah Mains, Hadeel Majdoub, Blake Mamaclay, Beatriz Martins, Anthony Massa, Jordan Massini, Darin Mathew, Jordan Mendelsohn, Rubbab Mirza, Kyle Moccio, Michelle Palys, Francesca Parafati, Emily Pare, Angela Petano, Lukasz Pliszka, Dennis Prokopa, Brendan Pyzik, Makenna Rich, Isaiah Rivera, Rachel Rossignol, Victoria Ruskys, Alex Sargent, Kayla Snyder, Yashvi Solanki, Dalton Spain, Michael Strong, Marek Targonski, Luong Tran, Victoria Usmanova, Charlie Watts, Chance Wetmore, Megan Willgoos, Peter Wroblewski, Connon Youmans, Dorian Zawisza and Victoria Zysk. **NL**

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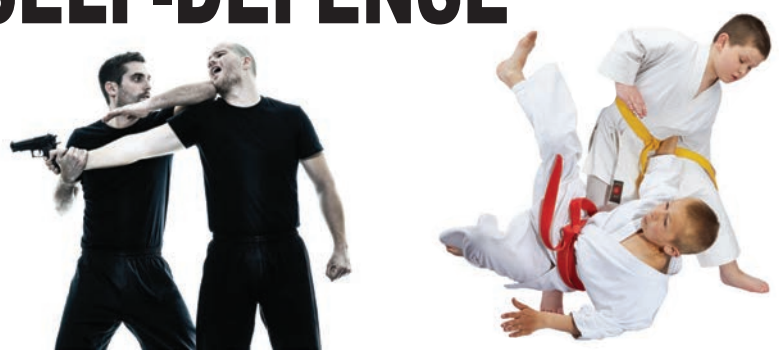

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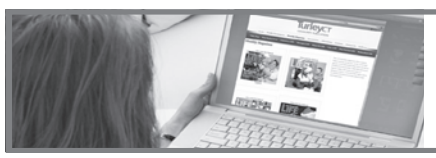

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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]

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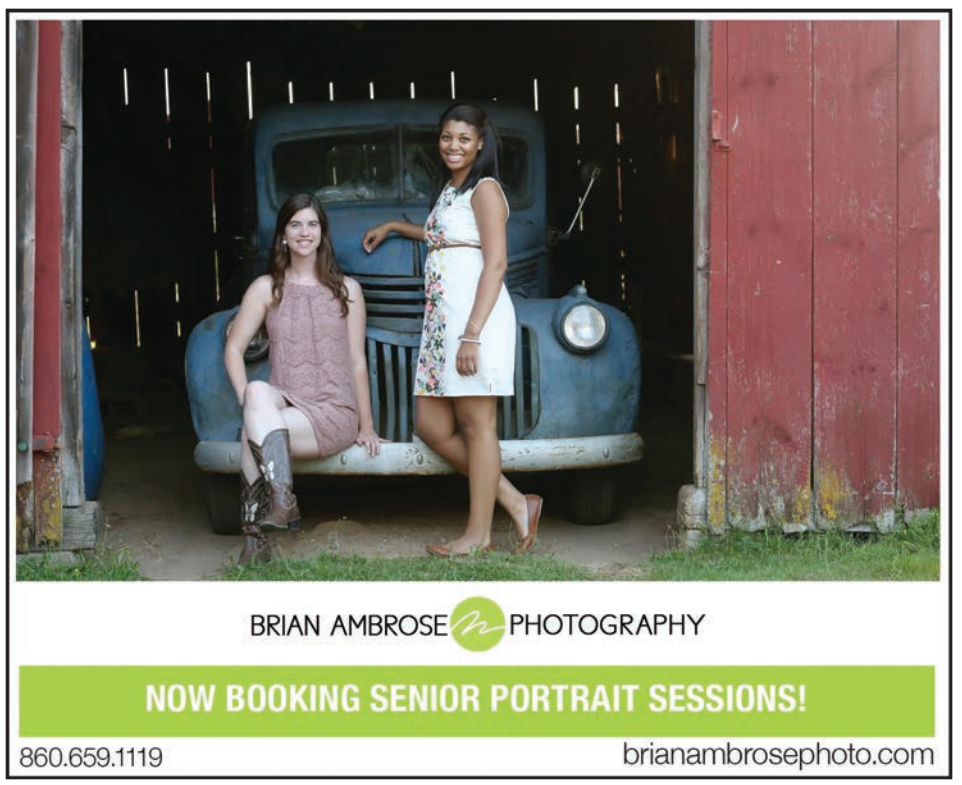

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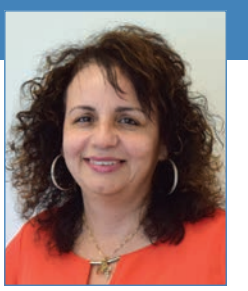

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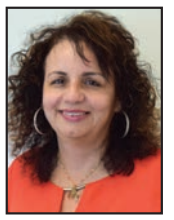

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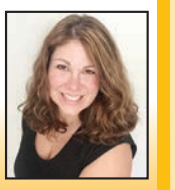

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People notes

Virgil Rona and Francesca Link

Virgil Rona was inducted into the Chinese Honor Society at Northwest Catholic High School and **Francesca Link** was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society.

Alexis Santos, a student at John Wallace Middle School, won an Eversource Energy Award at the 33rd Annual Connecticut Invention Convention. Her invention, the SmartSleeper, uses sensors to monitor a person's vital signs at night to detect when someone has fallen asleep and then sends a WiFi signal to shut off any devices that have been left on and are wasting electricity.

Kelly Byrnes was among a group of 15 winners in the 14th Annual Student Media Festival at Western New England University.

The following residents graduated from Tunxis Community College: **Linda Bartoszkiewicz**, certificate, health information technology; **Jonathan Bermudez**, A.S. degree, criminal justice; **Michelle Cabral**, A.S. degree, general studies; **Ryan Callahan,** A.S. degree, general studies; **Thomas Chasse**, certificate, network administration; **Brittany Coco,** A.S. degree, general studies; **Ryan Gallicchio**, A.S. degree and certificate, business administration; **Briana Gardner**, A.S. degree, general studies; **Maria Garrido-Cauley,** certificate, family violence intervention; **Jennifer Giomblanco**, certificate, photography; **Malgorzata Jarmoszko,** certificate, accounting; **Wafa Khan,** A.S. degree, graphic design; **Thomas McConnell**, certificate, human services; **Michael McKinnon,** A.S. degree, general studies; **Ashley Orozco**, A.S. degree, criminal justice; **Courtney Pottenburgh**, A.S. degree, graphic design; **Antu Stettler**, A.S. degree, general studies; **Kimberly Tallard**, A.S. degree, general studies; **Mei Yang**, A.S. degree, early childhood education and **Anton Yaroshenko**, A.S. degree, general studies.

Joseph Capossela earned a bachelor of science degree in health services administration from Springfield College.

Brett Manion earned a master's of education degree in psychology from Springfield College.

Dewan Davis earned a master's degree in social work from Springfield College.

Jessica Pizzoferrato earned a master's degree in social work from Springfield College.

Laurel Perri earned a B.A. degree in communication from the University of New Hampshire.

Samantha Gorski earned a B.A. degree in English teaching from the University of New Hampshire.

Natalie Zaleski earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from Marist College.

Michael Mikula graduated from Farmingdale State College.

Patrick Makles earned a B.A. degree in global studies from Loyola University Maryland.

Brian Lowe earned a degree in business administration from Ithaca College.

Pamela Lizotte earned a master of education degree from American International College.

Brianne Lamontagne, Alexander Rossman and **Amanda Roy** graduated from Becker College.

Kimberly Ramos earned a master of science degree in education from the College of Saint Rose.

Brian Dunn earned a bachelors degree in aeronautical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Rachel Lindstrom earned a B.A. degree in psychological science from Central Connecticut State University.

Molly Simeone graduated magna cum laude from Endicott College with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She was the recipient of the Endicott College Florence Nightingale Excellence in Nursing Award.

Benjamin Estey was inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for communication, at Eastern Connecticut State University.

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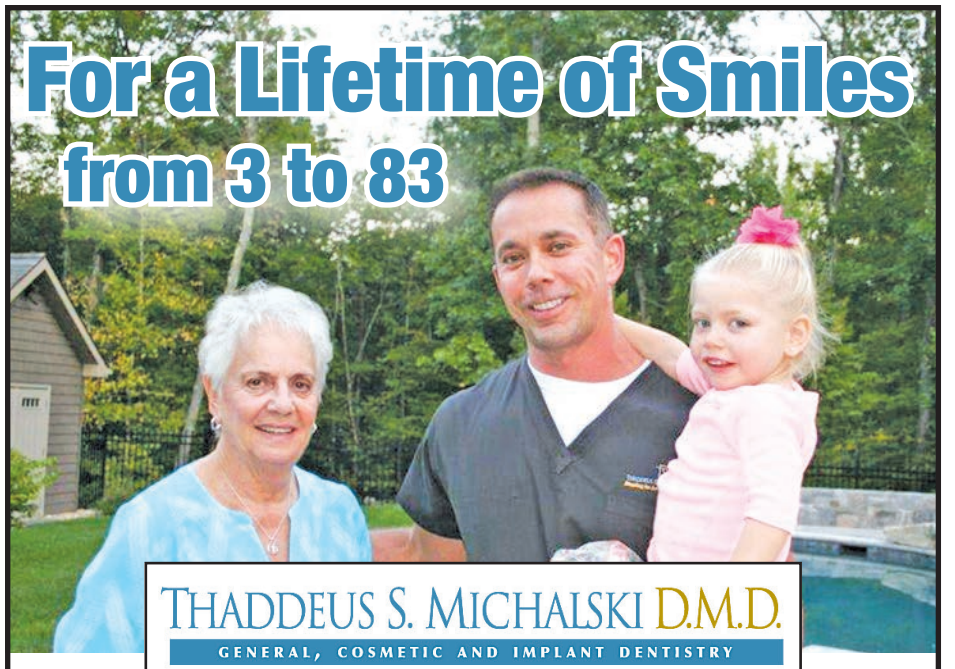
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Allison Marino was inducted into Psi Chi, the international honor society for psychology, at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Kelly Bobbitt, Jena Cardoso, Stephen Cowell, Sarah Emerson, Benjamin Estey, Nicole Forcellina, Nicole Garcia, Hannah Mamaclay and **Marlene Suarez** were named to the dean's list at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Jacob Hedberg was named to the dean's list at Coastal Carolina University.

Danielle Rocheleau was named to the dean's list at the University of Vermont.

Emily Molstad was named to the dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Jenna Tinti was named to the dean's list at Anderson University of South Carolina.

Giuseppe Amenta, David Anastasio, Erin Antolini, James Balducci, Julia Bednarczyk, Pauline Bielaszka, Hubert Bis, Kaitlyn Bloomquist, Taylor Bomely, Michael Cianci Jr., Justin Daly, Sabra Dunn, Mathew Fammartino, Rachel Farina, Jennifer Frazon, Andrew Gacek, Ada Golowieiko, Aysha Igbal, Joseph Bliss, Jeremy Kemp, Oliwia Klimek, Natalia Kosyakova, Alexandra Kubko, Michael Lanza, Kayla Marcinczyk, Patrick Meucci, Diana Miner, Brian Morganti, Melissa Nedjoika, Alexandra Oliveira, Nicholas Oliveira, Anthony Orwa, Bansari Patel, Pari Patel, Matthew Piendak, Nicole Pierzchalski, Mariam Poonnose, Corey Porteous, Justin Pratte, Amanda Framsdell, Tiffany Ratajczak, Amy Sali, Minnu Sali, Stephanie Sales, Jonathan Silverwatch, Erin Sobolewski, Sabrina Strom, Lyudmyla Susla, Kavisha Thakkar, David Tracey, Shelley Vuong, Jessica Weaver and **Lauren Zadzilko** were named to the dean's list at the University of Connecticut.

Carly McCarthy earned high honors for the fourth marking period at the University High School of Science and Engineering. **Roshini Avula** and **James Mouthaan** earned honors.

Tania Alekseyko, Karisa Curran, Nicole de Haas, Urszula Pacion, Sunita Prestage, Amber Reyna, Brityn Todaro, Kimberly Weintraub and **Susan Ruiz** were named to the president's list at Goodwin College.

Shelby Payanis and **Kirsten Valade** were named to the dean's list at Roger Williams University.

Melissa Brown, Abigail Burgio, Cianna Costa, John DeLeo, Julia Delgado, Adrienne Fisher, Hailey Gagnon, Matthew Gajowiak, David Kusinski, Maria Laufer, Evelyn Lopez, Casey Luiz, Sean McCusker, Jude Nwaogu, Aloki Patel, Jorge Pinho, Anna Romanowski, Daniel Sadowniczyk, Joseph Spada, Scott Veilleux, Gabriela Zglejc,

Brian Huynh, Bartlomiej Kolcz and **Andrew DeBella** were named to the dean's list at the University of Hartford.

Margaret Hanbury and **Kristine Nasinnyk**, both of Newington, were honored for their service on the board of the Central Connecticut Health District. They are stepping down from the board after serving four years each.

Danielle Chylinski was named to the president's list at Western New England University.

Jonathan Bermudez, Joshua Brugueras, Kayla Clark, Alyssa DiNino, Pawel Fortuna, Abbey Futoma, Maria Garrido-Cauley, Patricia Golka, Natasha Kloyzner, Kelly Madeley, Kelly Miller, Mark Nasatka, Iryna Panchyshyn, Christina Petillo, Cody Porter, Dhrumil Shah, Kristen Socha, Suzanne Thomas, Alla Ugrak, Samantha Vauter and **Crestina Walker** were named to the dean's list at Tunxis Community College.

Melissa Adams, Tania Alekseyko, Paula Braga, Kirstie Coppola, Caitlin Cram, Karisa Curran, Yecenia Davila, Nicole de Haas, Jillian Hubeny, John Martinez, Vanessa Molina, Urszula Pacion, Sunita Prestage, Amber Reyna, Keona Riley, Monica Rosado, Ermelinda Rrumbullaku, Senem Sevimli, Brityn Todaro, Kimberly Weintraub, Mitchelle Williams, Susan Ruiz, Galina Nikitina, Nicole Rodrigues and **Jason Stevens** were named to the dean's list at Goodwin College.

Kelly Byrnes, Andrew Deguzis, Emily Anderson and **Marissa Veilleux** were named to the dean's list at Western New England University.

McKayla Pratte was named to the dean's list at Nichols College.

Alyssa Depaolis, Emily Evon and **Tayler Liedke** were named to the dean's list at the University of Delaware.

Mirla Sales was named to the dean's list at Hofstra University.

Sherin Cheriyan and **Melissa Doolan** were named to the dean's list at Seton Hall University. **NL**

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